

Kremlin counters Estonian move

MOSCOW (AP) — A Soviet parliamentary commission Saturday ruled that Estonia's "declaration of sovereignty" runs counter to the constitution, setting the stage for a possible Kremlin annulment of the Baltic republic's action. In Lithuania, another Soviet republic on the Baltic coast, activists seeking more autonomy were meeting to decide how to react to a decision by local lawmakers not to directly challenge Moscow's control, one activist said (see page 8). In an apparent Kremlin effort to reassure the country's 15 constituent republics, the council of ministers met with their representatives on economic power-sharing. Radio Moscow reported Saturday, in New Delhi, Soviet President Mikhail S. Gorbachev said this week's challenge to Kremlin authority by Estonia was part of the ongoing process of "perestroika," his campaign for social and economic reform. However, a special commission of the Moscow-based Supreme Soviet Parliament that met Saturday to discuss questions of constitutional and political reform reacted with toughly worded language to Estonia's decision, calling it unconstitutional.

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AROUND THE WORLD...**Kibli to discuss Lebanon in Libya**

BEIRUT (R) — Arab League Secretary-General Chadi Kibli arrived in Libya Saturday for talks with Libyan officials on ways to solve Lebanon's acute political crisis, the official Libyan news agency (JANA) said. "I am quite sure that Al Jamahiriya (Libya) will do its utmost to ensure the success of an Arab initiative to rescue the unity of Lebanon," JANA quoted Kibli as saying. Kibli has visited Syria, and Gulf countries where he discussed the United Arab Emirates' call for an emergency Arab summit on Lebanon.

Kuwait sets hearing for carbomb suspects

KUWAIT (R) — Kuwait's state security court has scheduled a hearing next month for three Kuwaitis accused of helping in a carbomb explosion that killed their two brothers, a court official said Saturday. The official told reporters the three, Abdul Amir Saleh Mousa Al Attar, his brother Maher and sister Laila would appear in court Dec. 10 in a session initially to be open but later to be closed. The three will be charged with possession of explosives and failure to inform authorities of their brothers' involvement in a July 1987 explosion in central Kuwait. An Interior Ministry statement at the time of the blast said Mousa Saleh Mousa Al Attar and his brother Mahdi were killed in their car while trying to plant an explosive charge. The bomb-wrecked storefronts and parked cars near a shopping complex, but no one else was reported hurt. Local newspapers said the two had planned to set off the device at the city's Air France office, but it went off prematurely while they were setting the timer.

Bavarian elects Strauss successor

MUNICH (R) — The Christian Social Union (CSU), the right-wing Bavarian party in Chancellor Helmut Kohl's coalition, elected Theo Waigel party leader Saturday to succeed the late Franz Josef Strauss. Waigel, 49, the only candidate for the chairmanship, won 1,003 of 1,020 votes at a CSU convention, the 43-year-old party's first ever without Strauss, a giant of post-war German public life who was on familiar terms with many foreign leaders. Strauss helped found the CSU and was party chairman from 1961 until his death six weeks ago at age 73. He was also Bavaria's premier in the last decade of his life.

Vassiliou confident of goodwill in talks

NICOSIA (AP) — President George Vassiliou said Saturday that his upcoming talks in New York with Turkish Cypriot leader Rauf Denktaş and the U.N. secretary-general on reunifying Cyprus would be characterised by goodwill and good faith. Vassiliou is scheduled to leave Sunday for New York. Vassiliou and Denktaş are to meet with Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar Nov. 22 to review progress in their first round of talks on ending the division of Cyprus into separate Greek and Turkish sides. The meeting in New York is also supposed to lay the groundwork for a second round of talks. The talks began in September "given hope for a solution of the problems of our country created by foreign intervention, occupation and the deprivation of fundamental rights of our people," Vassiliou was quoted as saying by the official Cyprus News Agency. Vassiliou made the remarks in a meeting with the new Czechoslovak ambassador, Emil Keblesek.

Armenians press Karabakh demand

MOSCOW (R) — Armenians demanding the transfer of a disputed territory from Azerbaijan gathered in the centre of their capital Yerevan Saturday ahead of a session of parliament expected to discuss the issue, a local journalist said. The journalist from the Armenian news agency Armenpress told Reuters the demonstrators converged on the city's Opera Square for the second day running to back their appeal for control of Nagorno-Karabakh. The Communist Party newspaper Pravda said public transport, factories and institutes in Yerevan were paralysed by strikes on Friday but the journalist said work had resumed Saturday. The republic's parliament is due to meet Tuesday.

Syria, Austria discuss military ties

NICOSIA (AP) — Syria's defence minister, Lieutenant-General Mustapha Tlas, conferred Saturday with Austrian General Hans Phillip, commander of the Austrian army, on promoting relations between the two forces, a Syrian army source said. The meeting was also attended by Austrian Major-General Adolf Radauer, commander of the United Nations peacekeeping troops in the Golan Heights, and the chief Syrian liaison officer, Maj.-Gen. Adnan Tayyar, said the source. Phillip also conferred with Foreign Minister Farouk Al Sharaf on current development in the Middle East and both Austrian generals were received by Syrian Vice President Abdul Halim Khaddam. Austria President Kurt Waldheim made an official visit to Syria in October.

Geneva blast remains a mystery

GENEVA (AP) — Four people remained in hospital Saturday with leg injuries and burns as investigators sifted sparse clues the day after a bomb exploded on a busy sidewalk in central Geneva. Five passers-by were injured in the explosion at the start of Friday evening rush hour, which shattered the front window of the office of the Soviet airline Aeroflot, located on the ground floor of a building also housing two Arab banks. The bomb was hidden in a sidewalk wastebasket. The police's only immediate suspect was an unidentified mustachioed man in his 20s whom a witness saw near the wastebasket before the blast, spokesman Marcel Vandroz said. He said the attack's target remained a mystery.

Army patrols southern Philippines town

MANILA (AP) — Armoured troop carriers patrolled a town in the southern Philippines Saturday to maintain peace three days after 200 members of a clan attacked a military camp to avenge the killing of two of their relatives, a news report said. The government-run Philippines News Agency (PNA) said officials were hopeful that peace could be maintained in Jolo after Defense Secretary Fidel Ramos assured leaders of the Tulawi clan that an impartial investigation would be conducted into the killings. Initial news reports said that late last Wednesday, soldiers fatally shot two members of the clan when they resisted arrest on unspecified charges. Eight hours later, about 200 members of the clan attacked a military camp in Jolo, the provincial capital, 960 kilometres south of Manila. One soldier was killed and 15 other people, including six soldiers and nine civilians, were wounded in the shooting, PNA said.

Violent anti-Chun protests in Seoul

SEOUL (AP) — Thousands of protesters calling for the arrest and execution of former President Chun Doo-Hwan battled police Saturday with firebombs and rocks as they marched through Seoul. Riot police fired tear-gas and blocked streets to stop the students, workers and dissidents from marching on city hall to demand the punishment of the former president for alleged corruption and human rights abuses. "Execute Chun Doo-Hwan. Overthrow (President) Roh Tae-Woo," columns of marchers shouted as they paraded through the city centre after nightfall. "Return stolen wealth to the people," they yelled. Police armoured vans fired volleys of tear-gas into the ranks of the marchers to stop them from advancing on city hall.

Jordan Times

An independent English-language daily published by Jordan Times Foundation
جordan Times Foundation

Mulroney gets a boost

TORONTO (R) — Canada's ruling Conservative Party entered the final sprint of a tight electoral race buoyed by two opinion polls indicating it would win a slim majority in Monday's contest. A Gallup poll released Saturday showed Prime Minister Brian Mulroney's Conservatives with the backing of 40 per cent of decided voters against 35 per cent for the Liberals led by John Turner. The New Democratic Party trailed with 22 per cent in the survey conducted Nov. 14-17 among 2,097 respondents in the poll, which had a margin of error of three percentage points. Twelve per cent of Canadians remained undecided. "I think that Canadians, French-speaking and English-speaking, are resolved in growing numbers to provide themselves and their families with the security and the prosperity that a majority progressive conservative government will deliver to Canada," Mulroney told an exuberant rally in Montreal Friday.

Japanese firm briefed on investment chances in Jordan

AMMAN (J.T.) — A delegation representing the Japanese multinational trading company, C.I.T.O.H and Company, had a meeting here Saturday with His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan to discuss prospects of investments in Jordan.

The delegation members listened to a briefing by Prince Hassan on Jordan's plans and ideas which aim to transform Jordan into an industrial state in the coming decade.

Prince Hassan said that Jordan enjoys a unique regional location and can serve as a bridge between South East Asia and Western Asia in the field of industry and services.

The meeting was attended by the ministers of finance, planning, industry and trade, and the minister of state for cabinet affairs as well as Central Bank Governor Hussein Al Qasem and Japan's Ambassador to Jordan Makoto Watanabe.

The Japanese delegation members were also received by Prime Minister Zaid Rifai

who explained the incentives provided to investors under Jordanian laws and said that the Kingdom provides the suitable infrastructure and the skilled manpower qualified to join in any investment enterprise.

The prime minister also referred to the industrial cities and the free zones in the Kingdom which also offer a good opportunity for investment.

His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan Saturday briefs a visiting Japanese commercial delegation on investment opportunities in Jordan (Petra photo)

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He said that Jordan offers a wide range of opportunities for investments in agriculture, industry, services, transport maintenance, engineering industries, health and tourism (Continued on page 2)

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Israeli troops raid W. Bank village, wound 13 amid strike

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Israeli soldiers raided or clamped curfews on nine Palestinian villages and refugee camps in the occupied territories to search for resistance activists and 13 Palestinian suffered gunshot wounds during ensuing clashes, news reports said.

The violence erupted as Palestinian businesses and public transportation were paralysed by a general strike staged to mark the death anniversary of a founder of the Palestinian resistance movement.

The strike in honour of Sheikh Ezzeddine Al Kassem, who was fatally shot in 1935 by British rulers in Haifa, was called by underground leaders of the uprising. It was also endorsed by the Muslim fundamentalist Hamas movement.

Streets were deserted in five major West Bank cities and throughout the Gaza Strip. But

confrontations with troops were reported in outlying neighbourhoods of Gaza City, refugee camps and near the West Bank's largest city of Nablus.

Palestinians attacked soldiers with rocks in four villages near Nablus where the troops came in jeep to conduct searches and arrests, news reports said.

Soldiers also fired live ammunition and tear-gas to disperse nationalist demonstrators in Nablus. There were no reported injuries.

The soldiers responded by opening fire, wounding nine Palestinians, said hospital officials.

Among the wounded was a 65-year-old woman from Karawa Bani Hassan village who was hit in the chest, and a 20-year-old man from Beit Furik who was wounded seriously in the chest, the officials said.

Israel Radio also reported the clash in Beit Furik saying it occurred during a search raid by soldiers.

Soldiers clamped curfews on five refugee camps in Gaza and restricted entry and exit in the Nablus area, the army said.

Mubarak: Egypt backs all resolutions adopted by PNC

CAIRO (Agencies) — President Hosni Mubarak said Saturday Egypt supported all Palestine National Council (PNC) resolutions, the Middle East News Agency (MENA) reported.

"Some states raised doubts about our intentions when we declared support for the resolutions of the PNC and (they) say that Egypt did not recognise the independent Palestinian state."

"We say we supported all PNC resolutions, including the creation of the Palestinian state," MENA quoted the president as saying in the delta town of Benha.

Foreign Minister Esmat Abdul Meguid said later "Egypt's support for the declaration of the Palestinian state is stronger than traditional recognition."

He was speaking to reporters after talks with senior U.S. State Department official Robert

Walker.

The new state was proclaimed in Algiers Tuesday at a session of the PNC.

In Israel, the foreign ministry said there was nothing new in Egypt's support of the resolutions and there was no "recognition" of a Palestinian state in Mubarak's remarks.

But Geula Cohen, leader of the small, ultra-nationalist Tehiya (renaissance) party said Israel should not return the disputed border region of Taba to Egypt in light of Mubarak's statement.

Tehiya won three seats in the Nov. 1 election and is aligned with Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's right-wing Likud party.

In remarks carried by MENA, Mubarak said Saturday the PNC took "very good decisions." It accepted U.N. Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338, proclaimed a state and a confederation.

(Continued on page 2)

Khomeini rejects U.S.-Iran ties

NICOSIA (Agencies) — Iranian leader Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, responding to a letter from former U.S. President Jimmy Carter, has rejected any improvement in Tehran-Washington ties, Tehran Radio reported Saturday.

Carter wrote Khomeini stating that the release of American hostages in Lebanon could remove one of the main obstacles to reestablishing Tehran-Washington ties, the radio reported.

In response, Khomeini issued a statement through his son Ahmad denouncing any connection between Iran and the hostages in Lebanon, and adding, "just as I have said before, the relationship of Iran and the United States is like the relationship of the wolf and the lamb, and between these two

there can never be reconciliation," the radio reported.

The radio quoted Carter's letter as saying: "I hope that the American hostages in Lebanon can be released as soon as possible; this act would remove one of the main hurdles in the reestablishing of friendly relations between Iran and the U.S."

Khomeini said in his statement carried by Tehran Radio that the letter should be made public "in order to prevent any misunderstanding."

The letter, dated Oct. 30, was received by Khomeini's office, and Iranian experts have confirmed that the letter is in Carter's handwriting, the radio said.

To stop this effort from becoming politicised in our country, and delaying the release of the hostages, a neutral American channel

must be used, and we at the Carter Centre are prepared to help in every appropriate manner," the radio quoted the letter as saying.

The Carter Centre, opened in 1986, houses Carter's presidential library as well as his office and is dedicated to research and discussion of public policy.

Khomeini said in his statement carried by Tehran Radio that the letter should be made public "in order to prevent any misunderstanding."

"The tone of the letter is such

as though Iran is willing to establish relations with America, but (that) American hostages in Lebanon are an obstacle in the path of the realisation of this goal," Tehran Radio quoted Khomeini's statement as saying.

Meeting opens on Irbid, Mafrag development

Crown Prince urges all sectors to take part in economic effort

IRBID (Petra) — The new phase in Jordan's economy makes it incumbent upon all citizens to concentrate on priorities, adapt to the new realities and direct their efforts towards serving the

national interest and realising the Kingdom's economic plans, His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan said here Saturday.

The northern, central and southern regions will jointly take part in an enlarged seminar which will chart the national economic and social development policies for the coming years, Prince Hassan noted.

He emphasised that the planning process was continuing and could go beyond the coming years. "It could reach the point when the central government would discuss with local government in each province issues pertaining to the economy of that particular region," Prince Hassan added.

He called for the transformation of development councils into executive councils contributing to the development of various sectors. The development councils should also be entrusted with follow-up tasks, especially in production projects, the Prince said.

The minister reviewed areas where investment is possible in the northern regions of the Kingdom, mentioning in particular those in tourism, agriculture and industry.

Working papers to be discussed at the two-day seminar deal with transport, water, agriculture, municipal affairs, voluntary and social development, industry, customs, tourism, youth and health.

The seminar, the minister

Iran 'ready' for talks on rift with S. Arabia

NICOSIA (R) — Iran said Saturday it was ready for direct talks with Saudi Arabia to end their dispute which led Riyadh to sever diplomatic relations with Tehran in April.

"We are prepared to sit down, and overcome the great misunderstanding that has been created between us," Tehran Radio quoted Deputy Foreign Minister Ali Mohammad Besharati as saying.

Riyadh cut ties after accusing Tehran of hostile acts.

Saudi officials have accused Iran of supporting sabotage in the kingdom. Riyadh blamed Tehran for the riots at the 1987 pilgrimage in which over 400 people were killed.

"We are ready — in view of the readiness displayed in Saudi Arabia and on the basis of recommendations that have been exchanged — to resume direct talks with them and to take serious steps to overcome the conflict between the two countries, which has only been exploited by enemies."

The radio, monitored by the British Broadcasting Corporation, also quoted Besharati as saying there was no obstacle to relations being restored.

Savimbi says tacit Angola truce holding

JAMBA, Angola (Agencies) — Angolan rebel leader Jonas Savimbi says his guerrillas and Cuban forces in Angola are observing an informal ceasefire and conducting negotiations while awaiting the outcome of regional peace talks.

Savimbi told a news conference Friday at his bush headquarters that a delegation of his National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA) met Aug. 26 in the Ivory Coast with representatives of Cuban President Fidel Castro.

The purpose of the talks was to turn over two of the 17 Cuban government must come from President Ghulam Ishaq Khan, but he is under no deadline. Besharati has made clear she expects to be the next prime minister, which would make her the first woman leader of a Muslim country.

The plan provides for the withdrawal of an estimated 50,000 Cuban troops from Angola and paving the way for independence in Namibia, the former German colony ruled by South Africa in defiance of the United Nations.

Cuba and Angola Friday announced their approval of the plan.

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Gorbachev sees U.S. bid to force reversal of Afghan withdrawal

NEW DELHI (R) — Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev said Saturday the United States and Pakistan appeared intent on forcing Moscow to cancel its troop withdrawal from Afghanistan and scuttle a U.N.-mediated Afghan settlement.

Gorbachev, on the second day on an official visit, did not go so far as to threaten to halt the pullout, but analysis said his remarks left the door open for such a decision by placing the blame in advance on Washington and Islamabad.

"It appears that Pakistan and the United States find it hard to accept new approaches to international affairs," he said in a speech accepting the 1987 Indira Gandhi Peace Prize.

"Their actions appear to indicate that they would like to make us rescind those accords, even though the grave consequences of that are obvious," he said.

Moscow has repeatedly accused Pakistan and the United States of violating the U.N.-mediated Afghan accords signed in Geneva in April by continuing to supply arms to rebels.

The Soviet Union earlier this month temporarily suspended its pullout from Afghanistan, complaining that the military situation has deteriorated since the U.S.-backed rebels step up attacks on the Afghan army and Soviet positions.

Soviet Foreign Ministry spokesman Gennady Gerasimov said in Moscow Friday the Soviet Union intended to withdraw all the remainder of its troops by Feb. 15, the date stipulated by the accords, "provided the Geneva accords are not finally violated."

More than half the 105,000

ing positively.

Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi plans to visit Peking next month, the first such trip by an Indian leader in 34 years.

A Soviet-Chinese summit was "probably not too far away" he said, but gave no date.

The Soviet and Chinese foreign ministers are visiting each other's capitals in the coming months to prepare the groundwork for a possible summit.

New Afghan measures

In an Afghan-related development, the Soviet military command in Afghanistan announced Friday new measures against Afghan rebels it said were stepping up acts of "sabotage and terrorism" throughout the country.

Soviet Foreign Ministry spokesman Gennady Gerasimov told a news briefing the warning followed a rocket attack on Kabul airport last Sunday and the bombardment of an Afghan army convoy near the Pakistan border Wednesday.

Ten Soviet soldiers were killed in the airport attack and seven journalists — four Soviet, a French, an Indian and a West German — were lightly wounded in the other incident.

"Thinking of countries like the Soviet Union, India and China, one is inevitably led to realise that improving relations between them are extremely important for the destinies of Asia and global progress," he said.

Gorbachev said Moscow was pleased to see signs of improvement in Indian-Chinese ties, adding that the Soviet Union's own links with China were evolving.

Chinese relations

In his speech, Gorbachev said he wanted to see detente resume between China and its two big neighbours, India and the Soviet Union.

"In connection with the barbarous attacks...the command of the Soviet forces declares it has taken additional measures to put an end to sabotage and terrorism," the statement said.

"If the armed opposition continues escalating military activities, the command will have to apply other military means at its disposal," it added.

It gave no details of what measures were envisaged.

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Mubarak: Egypt backs all PNC resolutions

(Continued from page 1)

diplomatic offensive to dissuade them.

The PLO is launching its own offensive, especially towards European countries, non-aligned and socialist countries and American public opinion to persuade Washington to give up its bias in favour of Israel, he said in an interview with Reuters.

"As far as we can see, recognition will come from at least 75 states, that's de facto and real recognition," he said.

Nigeria's military rulers have welcomed the proclamation of an independent state of Palestine as a step towards peace in the Middle East, state radio reported Saturday.

Quoting a federal government statement, the radio said the PNC move was "a significant development that could lead to the resolution of the protracted conflict in the Middle East."

The statement from General Ibrahim Babangida's government stopped short of adding Nigeria, Africa's largest nation in population, to the more than 50 countries which have so far formally recognised Palestine.

In Tunis, PLO Political Department chief Farouk Kaddoumi said the PLO expects more than 75 states to recognise the newly-declared state despite an Israeli

Japanese firm briefed

(Continued from page 1)

and said that the Kingdom hopes to launch a greater measure of cooperation with Japan in all these fields.

Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs Fayed Tarawneh attended the meeting.

The head of the delegation earlier stated that his company was trying to explore areas for investment in Jordan in cooperation with the private and public sectors here.

The delegation members are

staying here until Nov. 21. The purpose of their mission is to explore ways and means of investment in the markets of Jordan to promote and find export markets for Jordanian products through C.I.T.O.H in the world markets, to develop a system for enhancing the business relationship between Jordanian firms and C.I.T.O.H offices worldwide.

The mission members will meet with Jordanian industrialists at the Amman Chamber of Industry and the Amman Chamber of Commerce.

The delegation members are

MUSEUMS

"Children's Heritage and Science Museum." Fun and knowledge for all ages, plus a small planetarium at the Haya Arts Centre. Open all week 9:00 a.m. - 11:00 p.m. and 3:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. Closed on Friday.

Armenian Museum. Jewellery and costumes over 100 years old. Also mosaics from Madaba and Jerash (3rd to 18th centuries). The Roman Theatre, Amman. Opening hours: 9:00 a.m. - 5 p.m. Year-round. Tel. 651760.

Jordan Archaeological Museum: Has an excellent collection of the antiquities of Jordan. Jabal Al Qala (Citadel Hill). Opening hours: 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. (Fridays and official holidays 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.). Closed Tuesdays.

RADIO JORDAN

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07:00 Morning Show New desk 08:00 Morning Show News Summary 10:00 In Concert 12:00 News Summary 12:05 Pop Session 13:00 News Summary

Evangelical Lutheran Church (Church of the Good Shepherd) Amman. Arabic Service: Sunday 7 p.m. Rev. N. Shar 811295. Rainbow Congregation meets at the Good Shepherd's Church Inter-denominational ecumenical English service. Saturday 6:30 p.m. Tel. 822085. Rev. Dr. The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-

Missile hits Sudanese minister's plane

KHARTOUM (R) — A plane carrying the Sudanese defence minister was hit by a missile Thursday, the state Radio Omdurman reported Saturday.

The radio said Defence Minister Abdul Maged Hamed Khalil escaped injury when his plane was hit by a Soviet-made SAM-7 missile believed fired by rebels shortly after takeoff from the southeastern town of Wau.

The pilot managed to control the plane with difficulty and land it at Wau again, the radio added. It did not identify the plane which was also carrying

several senior army officers.

Rebels have long threatened

to shoot down any aircraft

flying to the south without their permission.

In recent weeks they have

shot at three civilian aircraft

landing or taking off from the southern town of Juba.

The rebels shot down two

civilian passenger aircraft with SAM-7s in 1986 and 1987, killing

75 people.

Radio Omdurman said the

people of Wau, 1,000

kilometres southeast of Khartoum, closed shops and staged a

march Friday to protest at the attack on Khalil's plane.

Khalil, a retired general who took the defence portfolio six months ago, was on a tour of Bahr Al Ghazal region.

The civil war has caused mass starvation of the south of Sudan and created three million refugees.

The attack happened a day

after rebels of the Sudan Peo-

ple's Liberation Army (SPLA)

signed an agreement in Addis

Ababa aimed at ending five

years of civil war in south

Sudan.

Mass execution of political prisoners reported in Iran

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Iranian dissident Mujahedeen-e-Khalq has reported mass execution of hundreds of political prisoners in 13 Iranian cities, and hanging of four women in Amol on Iranian revolutionary patriarch Ayatollah Khomeini's personal order in recent weeks.

In a telelex statement received by the Jordan Times Friday, the Mujahedeen said based on reports from Iran, hundreds of political prisoners in Tehran, Roodzad, Tabriz, Zanjan, Ahwaz, Karaj, Brojerod, Semnan, Arak, Salmas, Khor, Shahrood, and Amol had been executed by firing squads or hanged in recent weeks.

Four women were publicly hanged at Stone Bridge opposite Saba Inn and in Amol. A number of political prisoners, including Hamze Mahjoob, a close relative Hojatolislam Jalal Ganjei — an anti-Khomeini cleric and a member of the National Council of Resistance — were also executed in Roodzad.

According to these reports, Khomeini has personally issued the order for the mass execution of Mujahedeen prisoners in fear of the overthrow of his rule, especially after his acceptance of Resolution 598 and the swallowing of the "poison of peace."

The Mujahedeen statement said:

In Tehran's Evin prison, dozens of prisoners, including Hassan Khonsari, seven years in prison, Hassan Keyvanfar, four years in prison, 19-year-old Noorbehkash, and Massoud Alai Khashtoo, the grandson of the late Ayatollah Taleqani — a leader of the anti-monarchical revolution — were executed by firing squad.

Also, 38 other political prisoners in Tabriz were executed in the past two weeks.

At the same time, 25 people were executed in Zanjan. Another 16 people were executed in Ahwaz.

Another 40 political prisoners have been transferred from Lainjan prison to the prison in Chaloos for execution. At present there is no information available on their fate.

MIDDLE EAST NEWS IN BRIEF

Iraqis asked to surrender illegal weapons

BAGHDAD (R) — The Iraqi government asked its citizens Friday to hand in weapons obtained illegally during the eight-year war with Iran. Arms and ammunition should be surrendered to police stations or ruling Baath Party offices as part of efforts to secure comprehensive peace and to stop violent incidents, a government statement read on television said.

Iranian POWs pay homage at Iraqi shrines

KARBALA (AP) — Around 100 Iranian prisoners of war (POWs), dressed in yellow tracksuits, Friday worshipped at the gold-and-silver shrine of Imam Hussein in this holy city. Many of the POWs wept as they kissed the silver structure forming the tomb of the 7th century leader. After finishing their prayers and chanting religious verses the Iranians were taken to another shrine 70 kilometres away at Najaf. The three bus-loads of Iranian prisoners were escorted by military police and plainclothes security men. An army officer with the escort said the tour to Karbala and Najaf was staged for humanitarian reasons before the prisoners are repatriated to Iraq.

Iran wants strong air force

NICOSIA (R) — Iran said Friday it would strengthen its air force battered by eight years of war with Iraq, to make it one of the most powerful in the region. "The government will...complete (the air force's) defensive and offensive range of equipment," Iranian Television quoted acting military commander Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani as saying. Tehran has mainly U.S.-built F-4 and F-5 and F-14 Phantoms from before the 1979 revolution. Unconfirmed Western reports say it bought Chinese-built MiG Fighters in 1987.

"God willing, the air force will become one of the most powerful in the region," Rafsanjani said at Diefzel air base in southwest Iran. The London-based International Institute for Strategic Studies estimated Iran had 60 serviceable combat aircraft last year.

3 prisoners found dead in Israeli jail

TEL AVIV (AP) — Three Israeli prisoners were found dead in their cell Friday after apparently overdosing on drugs smuggled into the prison, officials said. Two other inmates sharing the cell at Damour prison were found unconscious, but later recovered, said Johnny Tester, a spokesman for the prisons service. All five were found lying in their beds when guards checked the cell at 8:15 a.m.

Tester said. Two other inmates sharing the cell escaped unharmed and were being interrogated by police. Tester said. Tester noted that the seven men were being held in a special section set aside for prisoners whose lives had been threatened, usually because they served as informants.

U.S. court drops deportation of 2

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Deportation proceedings against two Palestinians accused of having links to a Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) group were halted Friday, but the government continued to press for expulsion of six others in the case.

The two-year-old prosecution has drawn widespread attention because the immigrants say the government is trying to deny them the free-speech rights enjoyed by American citizens.

Deportation proceedings against Ajad Khaled Barakat, 27, of Los Angeles, and Naim Nadim Sharif, 30, of a Los Angeles suburb, were suspended. The men are seeking legal resident

status under the federal immigration amnesty.

Ingrid K. Hrycenko, the immigration judge, said the government could resume deportation efforts if the men don't qualify for amnesty.

Hearings were set for March 22 and 23, 1989, for the others.

They are five Palestinian men and the Kenyan-born wife of one of the men.

The case, widely watched because of the civil rights implications, began with the arrests of the group in late January 1987 and early February 1987.

The Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) and Justice Department sought to deport

the immigrants on grounds they were active in local activities of the People's Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP).

The case was brought under the 1952 McCarran-Walter Act, which makes it deportable if he is affiliated with a group that advocates communism.

Federal authorities dropped

McCarran-Walter proceedings

against six of the immigrants whose visa status is uncertain. Deportation cases against those six, including the two in Friday's hearing, are proceeding on other grounds, ranging from overstaying a tourist visa to failing to maintain a full course load on a student visa.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:

Dr. Ramzi Al Mazra ... KWR06

Dr. Salah Al Aswad ... 649028

Dr. Olman Othman ... 774024

Dr. Zain Zaghloul ... 633302

Firdaus Pharmacy ... 661912

Farid Pharmacy ... 661836

Al Asmaa Pharmacy ... 661835

Nejeh Pharmacy ... 661730

Yousra Pharmacy ... 640405

Shameem Pharmacy ... 637660

TAXIS:

Talaat taxi ... 640031

National News

JORDAN TIMES, SUNDAY NOVEMBER 20, 1983

Queen Noor inaugurates institute for nurse tutors

AMMAN (J.T.) — A training institute to turn out much needed nurse tutors and instructors, was inaugurated Saturday by Her Majesty Queen Noor in the course of the Kingdom's celebrations of His Majesty King Hussein's birthday.

The institute, which at present will be temporarily housed at Al Bashir Hospital in Amman, will be moved to Zarqa once the construction work on the premises has been completed.

In a speech at the inauguration ceremony Health Minister Zaid Hamzeh said that the tutors will be employed by the ministry to train nurses and meet the country's growing need from now and until the year 2000.

Hamzeh voiced his ministry's pride in being supported by Queen Noor for all its projects to

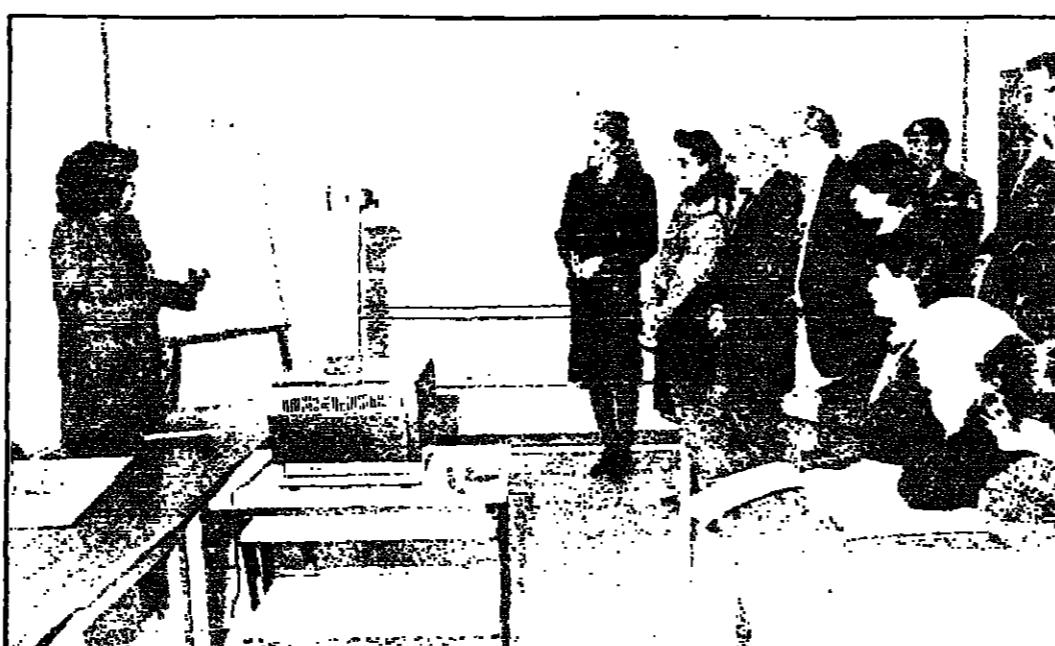
promote social and health standards, and expressed appreciation to the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) for its contribution to the project.

The USAID director delivered a speech outlining the role that the institute can play in promoting the nursing profession and contributing to the primary health care in Jordan.

Following the speeches the Queen toured parts of the institute and was briefed on its facilities and programmes.

The queen later visited the Jordanian Nursing School which is run by the Ministry of Health at Al Bashir Hospital.

The opening ceremony was attended by Her Royal Highness Princess Alia Al Faisal and other officials as well as U.S. Ambassador to Jordan Roscoe Suddarth.



Her Majesty Queen Noor familiarises herself with the various facilities of a nursing tutors centre which Her Majesty opened Saturday (Petra photo)

Queen opens art exhibition

AMMAN (Petra) — Her Majesty Queen Noor Al Hussein Saturday opened a three-week art exhibition by eight Jordanian plastic artists at the Abdul Hamid Shoman Foundation. The Queen toured various sections of the foundation and reviewed the various scientific and cultural activi-

UNDP gives \$25,000 to finance traditional handicraft project

AMMAN (Petra) — The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) has granted Jordan \$25,000 to help it finance part of a traditional handicraft project which is being implemented by the Queen Alia Social Welfare Fund (QAF) in the Karak region.

The project aims to develop local traditional crafts as part of the Jordanian cultural heritage, and to train local women in southern Jordan in traditional skills and to produce different items which, when marketed in Jordan and abroad, will provide revenues for their families and improve their living standards, according to a statement issued

upon the signing of the grant agreement.

Her Royal Highness Princess Basma, who is president of the QAF's board of trustees, attended the signing ceremony at the UNDP office in Amman.

According to the statement, the grant was made in recognition of QAF by the United Nations as the best non-governmental organisation to offer such services to local communities in 1988.

The agreement was signed for the QAF by a member of the fund's board of trustees, Walid Asfour, and for the UNDP. Mr. Ali Atiq, U.N. resident representative in Jordan.

Following the signing ceremony, Atiq said that the grant was a token gift to encourage all organisations to promote social and voluntary work in the Kingdom.

"The UNDP is delighted to see Jordan among a few developing nations conducting such activity on a large scale, and the QAF is regarded as a pioneer in endeavours designed to promote women's capabilities and potentials to serve their communities," Atiq noted.

The annual prize is annually granted to a non-governmental organisation that contributes towards the development of local communities.

Hindawi to leave for U.K. Sunday

AMMAN (Petra, J.T.) — Minister of Education Thouqan Hindawi will go to London Sunday at the head of a delegation on an official visit to the United Kingdom.

During the week-long visit, Hindawi will take part in educational seminars to be held at London University and at the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC).

The minister is accompanied on the visit by Dr. Izzat Jaradat, director of the ministry's Planning and Educational Development Department, and Dr. Ahmad Hiyasat, Director of the ministry's Curricula Department.

Jordan is buying British computers for its schools under an agreement signed last year by the two countries.

Tunis meeting to probe Arab transport networks

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan will take part in the Arab League ministerial meeting on transport in the Arab World which is due to open in Tunis on Nov. 22 and will be represented at the meeting by Minister of Transport and Telecommunications Khaled Al Haj Hassan.

Haj Hassan said Saturday that the ministers will review a host of questions pertaining to the transport sector and will dwell on a pan-Arab transport strategy designed to unify and integrate means of transport in the Arab World.

Speaking on the eve of his departure for Tunis to head Jordan's delegation, Haj Hassan said that ministers will also give attention to a number of proposals designed to give momentum to the transport development process in view of its importance to national economies.

Ways to facilitate transport and travel and the flow of goods among Arab countries by land, air and sea will be reviewed at the meeting which will be attended by transport and communications ministers from Arab countries, the minister noted.

The meeting, he said, is expected to find ways to boost the work of Arab maritime carriers whose fleets are essential elements in the process of development, and whose services can replace those of foreign fleets.

Cooperation among transport companies, means of stemming maritime fraud and an Arab corporation to classify vessels will be among the other topics to be taken up by the three day meeting, according to Haj Hassan.

He said that the ministerial meeting will elect an executive committee on pan-Arab transport to serve for the coming two years.

Meeting on phosphates

Also on Saturday Haj Hassan chaired a meeting at his office to discuss proper measures to ensure the flow of sufficient quantities of phosphate mined in southern Jordan to the port city of Aqaba for export.



Khaled Al Haj Hassan

The meeting was attended by the directors of the Jordanian Ports Corporation, the Aqaba Railway Corporation and the Jordan-Iraq Land Transport Company and the Syrian-Jordanian Land Transport Company, as well as representatives of the Jordan Phosphate Mines Company.

The meeting discussed also the question of transporting goods imported by other Arab countries via Aqaba.

At its recent board meeting here the Iraq-Jordan Land Transport Company announced it will assign 90 (up from 30) trucks to be employed in the process of transporting Jordanian phosphate from Hassa, Abiad and Shidieh mines in southern Jordan to Aqaba.

The Minister of Transport earlier introduced measures by which all trucks arriving at Aqaba to transport goods imported through Aqaba should first make at least one trip to the mines to transport a load of phosphate for export.

Theatre season to open on Nov. 28

AMMAN (Petra) — The Ministry of Culture and National Heritage will open a month long theatre season on Nov. 28 to present four different plays by Jordanian producers and a number of cultural seminars to discuss Jordan's endeavours in theatre work.

The ministry seeks to safeguard artistic potentials and to promote theatre work and acting as part of its endeavours to promote culture in the Kingdom. Minister of Culture Mohammad Hammouri said in a statement to the Jordan News Agency, Petra.

He said that the seminars, to be held next month, will try to focus light on actors, plays and theatre art as a whole.

The theatre festival will be held on annual basis since it offers the opportunity to the theatre actors and producers to discuss means of promoting Jordanian cultural and artistic efforts, Hammouri noted.

Both the private and public sectors will be involved in the festival, the first of its kind in the Kingdom; because the ministry intends to set up a theatre group, Hammouri said.

He said the ministry's various departments, working in cooperation with the private sector, have produced a number of plays which were presented in Jordan and abroad and featured in the Baghdad, Damascus and the Cairo theatre festivals.

Qasimieh and Wahideh. Out of this sum, he said, JD 106,000 were spent to build housing units for men and women teachers in a number of regions.

According to the department director, JD 375,000 are now being spent on schools and more housing projects for teachers within Ma'an Governorate.

The Minister of Transport earlier introduced measures by which all trucks arriving at Aqaba to transport goods imported through Aqaba should first make at least one trip to the mines to transport a load of phosphate for export.

Education spending in Ma'an tops JD 972,000

MA'AN (Petra) — The total actual spending on educational projects in Ma'an Governorate last year amounted to JD 972,000, according to the department director in a statement to the Jordan News Agency, Petra.

He said that the funds financed the construction of schools at Wadi Mousa, Jaffr, Mansheh,

Seminars to discuss humidity: Jordanian and foreign experts will participate in a seminar Wednesday to be held by the Energy and Electricity Information and Advisory Centre on humidity problems in residential areas and its causes. The seminar will discuss a number of working papers on energy preservation, humidity problems in Jordan, and ventilation in buildings. (Petra)

Islamic news agencies discuss cooperation

JEDDAH (Petra) — The executive council of the Islamic News Agency (INA) opened a two-day meeting here Saturday to discuss cooperation among news agencies in the Islamic World among other important issues.

The director of the Jordan News Agency, Petra, Ali Safadi is leading Jordan's delegation to the meeting which will decide on 1983 budget, plans to promote script-writers skills and inter-Islamic

cooperation in news exchange.

Following the council's meeting the INA general assembly will convene here to review these questions and the council's recommendations which are designed to promote the work of Islamic news agencies.

On the council are members representing Jordan, Saudi Arabia, Morocco, Tunisia, Qatar, Malaysia, Bangladesh and Niger.

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

- ★ An exhibition of rare Arabic coins at the Central Bank of Jordan.
- ★ A book exhibition of recent American publications on economics, management, business, and other topics of interest to students and professionals in business and public administration at the American Centre.
- ★ A plastic art exhibition by eight Jordanian artists at Abdul Hamid Shoman Foundation.
- ★ A plastic art exhibition by Abdul Ra'ouf Shamoun at Jordan Association of Plastic Arts hall.

SEMINARS

- ★ Seminar: "The youth issues, their role, and the repercussion of their return to their homeland" at Abdul Hamid Shoman Foundation at 6:00 p.m.

FILMS

- ★ Feature film: "Children of a Lesser God" at the American Centre at 7:00 p.m.

Seminar on management of water resources opens

Jordan expected to need 266m. cubic metres of water by the year 2005

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan is expected to require nearly 266 million cubic metres of water for annual consumption by the year 2005 and therefore the Ministry of Water and Irrigation has to intensify its efforts to provide sufficient amounts through prospecting for new resources, according to Minister of Water and Irrigation Ahmad Dakhqan Saturday.

health care to all people by the year 2000.

The different state departments are not the only parties that should be involved in ensuring water supplies to all regions. This is a national effort that requires cooperation from all sectors. The Health Ministry can help by testing water samples and ensuring potable supplies for citizens," the minister noted.

A 1987 estimate of Jordan's water production was put at 150 million cubic metres mainly drawn from underground, the minister noted.

Dakhqan said that nearly 50 per cent of the total amount of water used for irrigation is lost on the way to the fields either through leakage in the pipelines, or evaporation.

The ministry has introduced a system by which it imposes higher rates on major users of water thus curtailing excessive consumption, and is continually conducting maintenance on networks to prevent any loss through leakage, Dakhqan said.

Health Minister Zaid Hamzeh delegated the director of his ministry's Department of Primary Health Care to deliver his speech in which he stressed the need to supply all citizens with sufficient potable water.

These achievements were realised in Jordan despite the country's meagre water resources and poor rainfall, he said.

According to the minister only

100 millimetres of rain fall annually on desert and southern areas of the Kingdom, and 600 millimetres in northern and western areas.

Japanese official dissatisfied with selection of activities for volunteers

By Rabab Mango
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The director general of Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers (JOCV), Takeshi Nakamura, who concluded a visit to Jordan has expressed his dissatisfaction with areas which were selected for the activities of young Japanese volunteers in Jordan.

In a statement to the Jordan Times, Nakamura said that the volunteers have been doing work with Jordanian experts and skilled manpower with very high qualifications and experience at a time when their expertise was needed elsewhere.

In addition those working at Jordan University Hospital have been helping nurses of non-Jordanian nationality in violation of the JOCV principles, Nakamura said.

A total of 20 young volunteers from Japan have been providing voluntary work at the University of Jordan, Yarmouk University, the Royal Scientific Society, the Jordanian Sports Federations, some of which deal with computers, architecture, nursing, city planning and archaeology.

In some cases the young volunteers' contribution was of great benefit, especially in projects

being carried out in Tafileh region, Nakamura noted.

Once their term of service is over, the volunteers will leave the country. "This does not mean that they cannot come back for employment in other fields on voluntary basis," Nakamura pointed out.

These volunteers, he added, could be employed by the private sector in Jordan provided the

government gave its prior consent and pointed out areas for such work.

Japanese volunteers had been coming to Jordan since 1985 within a programme conducted by JOCV to help developing nations.

Nakamura stayed here for a week, meeting volunteers and conducting assessment of their work in different specialisations.

Jordan, N. Yemen to discuss air transport cooperation

AMMAN (Petra) — A civil aviation delegation from North Yemen is due here on Nov. 26 on a visit to Jordan and talks on promoting bilateral cooperation in air transport.

The delegation will be led by North Yemen's civil aviation authority director who will spend several days of talks with officials from the Civil Aviation Authority.

Last February Foreign Minister Taher Al Masri visited Sanaa and held talks with officials that ended with signing of minutes of the deliberations which paved the way for bilateral cooperation in

cultural educational scientific, technical, agricultural, tourist, economic and trade fields.

The talks, conducted through the joint Jordanian-North Yemen higher committee led by Masri, resulted in North Yemen's requesting the services of 500 Jordanian teachers and employing engineers and doctors to carry out work in North Yemen.

Meanwhile, the Civil Aviation Authority has announced that it will take part in the 32nd meeting of the Civil Aviation Council of Arab Countries due to open Thursday in the Libyan capital of Tripoli.

Swiss pianist to perform in Amman

AMMAN (J.T.) — Swiss Pianist Werner Bartschi will present a recital at the Royal Cultural Centre in Amman Monday Nov. 21 under the patronage of Prince Raad Ibn Zaid.

The recital is in implementation of a Swiss-Jordanian cultural cooperation agreement and the proceeds will benefit the Blind Association in Jordan.

Bartschi is an artistic personality that does not conform to the usual criteria of the musical world. His determination to keep redefining the aim of concerts, and to question the aesthetic stand of each individual work can be clearly felt in his playing. This is precisely why his interpretations are perceived by many as particularly spontaneous, communicative and thrilling.

Born 1950 in Zurich, the artist possesses a wide repertoire ranging from early Baroque to contemporary music. He has given first performances of many works: Concerts in Switzerland and in more than 25 other countries in Europe, America and the Arab World; radio broadcasts, numerous records and television appearances testify to a success-



full pianistic activity. He also won recognition as an editor of books on music and organiser of the programmes of various concert series, as well as for initiating and carrying through such cultural events, as for instance the Zurich Satie Season or the Ives-Cycle, a series of performances of those composer's works in all town's important musical institutions. In 1980 he found "Rezital", a concert series in Zurich which concentrates his conceptional aspirations into a continuous programme concept. Bartschi's repertoire includes Johann Bach, Frederic Chopin, Ludwig Van Beethoven, and Cesar Franck.

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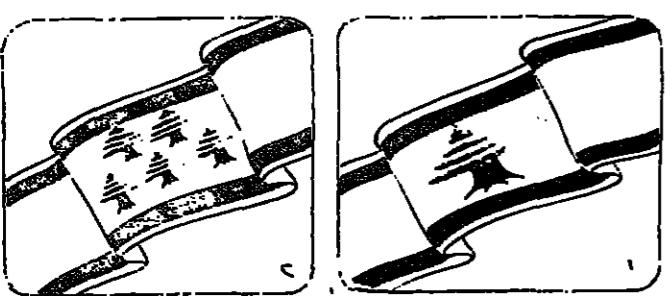
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Winds of change in Pakistan

THE PLURALITY that Benazir Bhutto's party won in this week's general elections in Pakistan is by no means an accident or a fluke. It is the most resounding message of the Pakistani people expressing their yearning for democracy. Hand-in-hand with this sentiment is also what could perhaps be the most important lesson in the elections — that the traditional Muslim society in Pakistan has no qualms about electing a woman to possibly lead the country. This lesson has not only undermined the contention of many Third World leaders that their countries are not yet ready for democracy but also proved that little significance is given to other factors when it comes to choosing democracy as a way of life.

The very fact that there are no bones of contention in the way the Pakistani elections were conducted, and that all factions appear to have accepted the outcome of the people's choice, bodes well for the second most populous Muslim country to reinforce its role in the Islamic World as well as the international community.

Regardless of whether Bhutto realises her claim to premiership of Pakistan or whether one of her opponents beats her to the chair, the fact remains that the country has taken a firm step towards enhancing democracy. The people have made their choice and it is up to Muslims and Arabs, who have long-rooted relations with Pakistan, and the international community, to extend a welcoming hand to the new leader in Islamabad and help the country to continue its service in the Arab and Muslim cause and international detente and cooperation.



Waleed - Al Dastour

ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i Arabic daily Saturday said prospects for convening an international Middle East peace conference have increased now following the Arab Nation's endeavours to bolster the stand of the PLO as a legitimate representative of the Palestinian people and following the successful efforts to end the Gulf war. The Palestine National Council's announcement of an independent Palestinian state, recognising the U.N. Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 as a basis for establishing peace, has also contributed to current efforts and consultations towards convening the projected conference, the paper noted. It said that Israel of course continues to object such a conference because it is determined to obstruct all paths leading to a just and durable peace because this is compatible with the Zionist strategy. The American position seems today to be still under the influence of Israel's ideas, as Washington continues to reject the projected conference, the paper added. Therefore, it said, there is no alternative to doubling the Arab World's efforts at all fronts for the sake of ensuring an international conference that would put an end to the conflict in the Middle East region.

The Editor of Al Ra'i daily writes on the situation in Sudan where one of its political parties has drawn up plans for peace with the leaders of the rebel forces. Perhaps the question of southern Sudan and the rebellion going on there is the most significant issue that requires settlement to help Sudanese people to devote their time and efforts to rebuilding the country following years of drought, famine and in the wake of an invasion of locusts, says Rakun Al Majali. The step taken by the Sudanese Unionist Democratic Party which is spearheading the efforts for peace, has won support and warm welcome from all the Sudanese people who see in it as a constructive step leading to the end of many of the country's problems, the writer points out. The fact that Ethiopia is taking part in the current peace efforts between the two sides, the writer adds, indicates that any agreement would be respected by warring factions and their neighbours, a step that can ensure lasting peace.

Al Dustour daily wrote Saturday on the situation in the occupied Arab territories describing Israel's current inhuman practices as a link in a series of actions designed to evict the Arabs from their homeland in Palestine. To do this, Israel plans first to stifle the ongoing uprising for good with inhuman practices, especially as the extremist elements in the Israeli leadership are now at the helm, directing operations against the Arab population, the paper noted. Israel's inhuman actions are particularly stepped up now following the proclamation of the independent Palestinian state, the paper added. Israel's Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's statement that Israel will maintain its occupation of the Arab land and will never give up any part to the Arabs is sufficient proof of Israel's intentions and the plans of the coming coalition government, the paper pointed out. It said that Israel has escalated its inhuman practices in the wake of the proclamation of the Palestine state as a direct response to the PLO's moves towards peace and in a display of open challenge to the Arab Nation and the world at large.

Sawt Al Shaab daily discussed a report to the U.N. General Assembly on the situation in the occupied Arab territories and comments on it by Jordan's U.N. Ambassador Abdullah Salah. The report and the ambassador comments both expose Israel's inhuman practices against the Palestinian people and manifests Israel's total disregard to the world community and U.N. principles, the paper noted. To perpetuate its occupation of Palestine, Israel has been employing all forms of repression and imprisonment against the Arab people trying to evict them from their land or subjugate them to the Zionists' will, the paper added.

Sunday's Economic Pulse

Reduce debt servicing

ACCORDING to official statistics, Jordan's external debt stands at \$3.5 billion. Adding military, private sector and other debts puts the figure in the neighbourhood of \$5 to 6 billion. This is not a huge figure in comparison with debts of other developing countries, but it is not a light burden in relation to the small Jordanian economy.

The capital account in the balance of payments indicates that debt service during the last three years averaged JD 213 million or \$650 million a year. This is quite a big amount because it swallows 16.5 per cent of the gross receipts in foreign currencies from all current sources, including exports of goods and services, expatriates remittances, and Arab aid. It is also equivalent to 11.5 per cent of the gross national product (GNP), or 14.5 per cent of gross domestic product (GDP).

The volume of Jordan's external public debt, like the debt of all developing countries, is growing even without new withdrawals from loans, because of the rise in the exchange rate of foreign currencies which results in an increase in the burden of debt service measured in local currency.

The government has declared policy towards external public debt. The policy stipulates no withdrawal of new loans in excess of

repayments of old loans. Such policy, if adhered to, would halt the growth of external debts, and reduce the outstanding debts. The government has also announced that it would continue to service the debts and pay all commitments on time. Such policy, if adhered to, will maintain the credit worthiness of the country in the international markets.

Other additional points are in order. The shifting towards internal borrowing is no solution. Domestic borrowing has almost the same effect. The banking system could not acquire more governmental assets except at the expense of liquidating foreign assets. The deficit in the budget, under relative stability in money supply, must be translated into a balance of payments deficit. There is no cure to the deficit in the current account without having the budget deficit under control.

On the other hand the picture should be completed by including all other external debts. There is no reason to shy away from stating the military debts incurred in arm our forces, which must be an Arab responsibility. Private sector loans are also part of the external debt, even when they are not guaranteed by the government. Only short term credit can be excluded because it is automatically renewable under normal circumstances.

It should be pointed out that a major part of the public external debt is due to Arab governments. The outstanding balance in favour of Kuwait is JD 72 million. Saudi Arabia JD 64 million, Abu Dhabi JD 27.5 million, Iraq JD 20 million, Libya JD 1.5 million.

All these countries are in debt to Jordan in accordance with their Baghdad summit financial commitments. All, except Saudi Arabia, are late in transferring huge amounts to Jordan. Their excuse is lack of liquidity and the unavailability of funds. Therefore, the Ministry of Finance may want to contact the governments concerned to write off these debts against part of their later payments.

Such a step, if taken by mutual agreement, will reduce Jordan's external debt substantially, and improve the image of the Jordanian economy. It will reduce the burden of external debt service and maintain it within the Kingdom's ability.

It is in the interest of the Arab oil producing countries to keep Jordan strong, because Jordan protects their northern flank and operates as a buffer zone between them and the Zionist war machine. The strength of Jordan is a security asset for their countries.

The birth of the State of Palestine

The following is the full text of the Palestine National Council declaration of independence issued Nov. 15

In the name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful

DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE

PALESTINE, the land of the three monotheistic faiths, is where the Palestinian Arab people was born, on which it grew, developed and excelled. The Palestinian people was never separated from or diminished in its integral bonds with Palestine. Thus the Palestinian Arab people ensured for itself an everlasting union between itself, its land and its history.

Resolute throughout that history, the Palestinian Arab people forged its national identity, rising even to unimagined levels in its defence, as invasion, the design of others, and the appeal special to Palestine's ancient and luminous place on that eminence where powers and civilisations are joined... All this intervened thereby to deprive the people of its political independence. Yet the undying connection between Palestine and its people secured for the land its character, and for the people its national genius.

Nourished by an unfolding series of civilisations and cultures, inspired by a heritage rich in variety and kind, the Palestinian Arab people added to its stature by consolidating a union between itself and its patrimonial Land. The call went out from Temple, Church, and Mosque that to praise the Creator, to celebrate compassion and peace was indeed the message of Palestine. And in generation after generation, the Palestinian Arab people gave of itself unsparingly in the valiant battle for liberation and homeland. For what has been the unbroken chain of our people's rebellions but the heroic embodiment of our will for national independence? And so the people was sustained in the struggle to stay and to prevail.

When in the course of modern times a new order of values was declared with norms and values fair for all, it was the Palestinian Arab people that had been excluded from the destiny of all other peoples by a hostile array of local and foreign powers. Yet again had unaided justice been revealed as insufficient to drive the world's history along its preferred course.

And it was the Palestinian people, already wounded in its body, that was submitted to yet another type of occupation over which floated the falsehood that "Palestine was a land without people." This notion was foisted upon some in the world, whereas in Article 22 of the Covenant of the League of Nations (1919) and in the Treaty of Lausanne (1923), the community of nations had recognised that all the Arab territories, including Palestine, of the formerly Ottoman provinces were to have granted to them their freedom as provisionally independent nations.

Despite the historical injustice inflicted on the Palestinian Arab people resulting in their dispersion and depriving them of their right to self-determination, following upon U.N. General Assembly Resolution 181 (1947), which partitioned Palestine into two states, one Arab, one Jewish, yet it is this resolution that still provides those conditions of international legitimacy that ensure the right of the Palestinian Arab people to sovereignty and political independence.

By stages, the occupation of Palestine and parts of other Arab territories by Israeli forces, the willed dispossession and expulsion from their ancestral homes of the majority of Palestine's civilian inhabitants was achieved by organised terror; those Palestinians who remained, as a vassal subjugated in its homeland, were persecuted and forced to endure the destruction of their national life.

Thus were principles of international legitimacy violated. Thus were the Charter of the United Nations and its resolutions disfigured, for they had recognised the Palestinian Arab people's national rights, including the right of Return, the right to

independence, the right to sovereignty over territory and homeland.

In Palestine and on its perimeters, in exile distant and near, the Palestinian Arab people never faltered and never abandoned its conviction in its rights of Return and Independence. Occupation, massacres and dispersion achieved no gain in the unabated Palestinian consciousness of self and political identity, as Palestinians went forward with their destiny, undeterred and unbowed. And from out of the long years of trial in ever-mounting struggle, the Palestinian political identity emerged further consolidated and confirmed... And the collective Palestinian national will forged for itself a political embodiment, the Palestine Liberation Organisation, its sole legitimate representative, recognised by the world community as a whole, as well as by related regional and international institutions. Standing on the very rock of conviction in the Palestinian people's inalienable rights, and on the ground of Arab national consensus, and of international legitimacy, the PLO led the campaigns of its great people, moulded into unity and powerful resolve, one and indivisible in its triumphs, even as it suffered massacres and confinement within and without its home. And so Palestinian resistance was clarified and raised into the forefront of Arab and world awareness, as the struggle of the Palestinian Arab people achieved unique prominence among the world's liberation movements in the modern era.

The massive national uprising, the "intifada", now intensifying in cumulative scope and power on occupied Palestinian territories, as well as the unflinching resistance of the refugee camps outside the homeland, have elevated consciousness of the Palestinian truth and right into still higher realms of comprehension and actuality. Now at last the curtain has been dropped around a whole epoch of prevarication and negation. The intifada has set siege to the mind of official Israel, which has for too long relied exclusively upon myth and terror to deny Palestinian existence altogether. Because of the intifada and its revolutionary irreversible impulse, the history of Palestine has therefore arrived at a decisive juncture.

Whereas the Palestinian people reaffirms most definitely its inalienable rights in the land of its patrimony:

Now by virtue of natural, and the exercise of those rights historical and legal right and the sacrifice of successive generations who gave of themselves in defence of the freedom and independence of their homeland:

In pursuance of resolutions adopted by Arab Summit Conference and relying on the authority bestowed by international legitimacy as embodied in the resolutions of the United Nations Organisation since 1947:

And in exercise by the Palestinian Arab people of its right to self-determination, political independence; and sovereignty over its territory.

The Palestine National Council in the name of God, and in the name of the Palestinian Arab people; hereby proclaims the establishment of the State of Palestine on our Palestinian territory with its capital Jerusalem (Al-Quds Ash Sharif).

The State of Palestine is the state of Palestinians wherever they may be. The state is for them to enjoy in it their collective national and cultural identity, theirs to pursue in it a complete equality of rights. In it will be safeguarded their political and religious convictions and their human dignity by means of a parliamentary democratic system of governance, itself based on freedom of expression and the freedom to form parties, the rights of minorities will duly be respected by the majority, as minorities must abide by decisions of the majorities. Governance will be based on principles of social justice, equality and non-discrimination in public rights of men or women, on grounds of race, religion, colour or sex under the aegis of a constitution which ensures the rule of law and an independent judiciary. Thus shall these principles allow no departure from Palestine's age-old spiritual and civilisational heritage of tolerance and religious

co-existence.

The State of Palestine is an Arab state, an integral and indivisible part of the Arab Nation, at one with that nation in its aspiration for liberation, progress, democracy and unity. The State of Palestine affirms its obligation to abide by the Charter of the League of Arab States, whereby the coordination of the Arab states with each other shall be strengthened. It calls upon Arab compatriots to consolidate and enhance the emergence in reality of our state, to mobilise potential, and to intensify efforts whose goal is to end Israeli occupation.

The State of Palestine proclaims its commitment to the principles and purposes of the United Nations, and to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. It proclaims its commitment as well to the principles and policies of the Non-Aligned Movement.

It further announces itself to be a peace-loving state, in adherence to the principles of peaceful co-existence. It will join with all states and peoples in order to assure a permanent peace based upon justice and the respect of rights so that humanity's potential for well-being may be assured, on earnest competition for excellence be maintained, and in which confidence in the future will eliminate fear for those who are just and for whom justice is the only recourse.

In the context of its struggle for peace in the Land of Love and Peace, the State of Palestine calls upon the United Nations to bear special responsibility for the Palestinian Arab people and its homeland. It calls upon all peace and freedom-loving peoples and states to assist it in the attainment of its objectives, to provide it with security, to alleviate the tragedy of its people, and to help it terminate Israel's occupation of the Palestinian territories.

The State of Palestine herewith declares that it believes in the settlement of regional and international disputes by peaceful means, in accordance with the U.N. Charter and resolutions. Without prejudice to its natural right to defend its territorial integrity and independence, it therefore rejects the threat or use of force, violence, and terrorism against its territorial integrity, or political independence, as it also rejects their use against the territorial integrity of other states.

Therefore, on this day unlike all others, Nov. 15, 1988, as we stand at the threshold of a new dawn, in all honour and modesty we humbly bow to the sacred spirits of our fallen ones, Palestinian and Arab, by the purity of whose sacrifice for the homeland our sky has been illuminated and our Land given life. Our hearts are lifted up and irradiated by the light emanating from the much blessed intifada, from those who have endured and have fought the fight of the camps, of dispersion, of exile, from those who have borne the standard of freedom, our children, our aged, our youth, our prisoners, detainees and wounded, all those whose ties to our sacred soil are confirmed in camp, village and town. We render special tribute to that brave Palestinian woman, guardian of sustenance and life, keeper of our people's perennial flame. To the souls of our sainted martyrs, to the whole of our Palestinian Arab people, to all free and honourable peoples everywhere, we pledge that our struggle shall be continued until the occupation ends, and the foundation of our sovereignty and independence shall be fortified accordingly.

Therefore, we call upon our great people to rally to the banner of Palestine, to cherish and defend it, so that it may forever be the symbol of our freedom and dignity in that homeland, which is a homeland for the free, now and always.

In the name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful.

"Say: 'O God, Master of the Kingdom, Thou givest the Kingdom to whom Thou wilt, and seizes the Kingdom from whom Thou wilt, Thou exaltest whom Thou wilt, and Thou abases whom Thou wilt; in Thy hand is the good: Thou art powerful over everything.'

Sadaga Allahu Al-Azim

Jackson emerges stronger

By Walter R. Mears,
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — In the ashes of a lost Democratic presidential campaign, Jesse Jackson heads toward the next one strengthened by new rules and a new role.

Next time, Jackson will begin as the Democrat to beat — which is what somebody almost certainly will do. The odds weigh heavily against the nomination of a black man in 1992, in a party that at times shrank from the word "liberal" during the campaign just ended.

Jackson said he doesn't fear that a liberal can't be elected. "Reaching out, making room, that's liberalism. So the liberal tradition is a proud tradition," he said. "I will not forsake it."

There surely will be ample competition, with Democratic names like Sen. Bill Bradley, New York Gov. Mario Cuomo, Sen. Sam Nunn, Sen. Al Gore and congressman Richard Gephardt. Even as Gov. Michael Dukakis conceded his loss to president-elect George Bush his supporters were chanting "ninety-two, ninety-two."

Whatever the field, the stand-

of Paul Kirk, who had planned to leave the post but may stay on temporarily for the sake of party peace.

Ron Brown, a Washington lawyer, Jackson's convention manager and a volunteer adviser to Dukakis, expects to seek the chairmanship. At least four other Democrats are prospective candidates.

While Jackson isn't saying so yet, he will be at work for Brown. Jackson allies were named to about a dozen at-large committee seats as part of a harmony pact with Dukakis at the Democratic convention in Atlanta. One of the new committeemen: Jesse Jackson Jr.

More important, delegate selection rules have been amended to Jackson's potential advantage in 1992. In a convention peacemaking deal, the Dukakis camp agreed to rules that will award future nominating votes strictly on the basis of proportional representation of the popular vote.

In simplest terms, that reduces the convention clout of officeholders and party leaders who are not pledged to a candidate in advance.

But presidential campaigning has become all but permanent, and defeated candidates go offstage quickly. The new Democratic cast will be auditioning before long.

And Jackson will be looking for a lead role.

John Sununu: Bush's choice for chief of staff

By Catherine Arnst
Reuter

The Hijaz Railway steaming ahead with revival dreams

By Ghadeer Taher
Special to the Jordan Times

A CLOUD of steam crystallises into ice in the winter air; the impatient chug of a hissing engine mingles with the strange sounds of the endless sand dunes of the desert; an air horn produces a pleasant yet undefinable musical melody cutting across the clickety-clack of wheels on steel; the rattle of wagon couplings as they turn a sharp bend. Imaginations turn vivid and minds are transported into a new world of memories of an old world.

In this era of super-fast trains that compete with airlines, there still lingers a mysterious attraction to steam trains, particularly as the number of operative steam locomotives around the world shrinks. Perhaps the explanation lies in the link that they represent — of the modern era with a not-so-distant past, now rosed by nostalgia.

Jordan, one of the five or six countries that still boast of an operative steam train system that dates back to the turn of the century, is striving to take advantage of the full tourism potential of its Hijaz Railway, which serves as a reminder of the nature of the land, its history and people.

Driving along the main Amman-Marka road to the old airport, we come across the landmark railway overbridge, which, by coincidence or design, carries a large advertisement for Royal Jordanian. A little further, after labouring up the steep slope, if we look back we can see a strange assortment of old steam engines and wagons with a forlorn look — the nerve centre of what used to be part of the great railway linking Syria with Saudi Arabia. If those locomotives could speak, they could fill a whole library with works on Arab history and the rise and fall of the Ottoman empire, which once stretched from Istanbul to Mecca, and the will of the Muslim World in bringing a dream to realisation.

In line with the changing times, the Hijaz Railway Corporation — a name closely associated with Jordan's history — has woken up to the reemerging fascination with rail and is slowly gearing up to what could be a boon to the tourism industry of the Kingdom.

The corporation launched its tourism promotion drive three years ago and slowly accelerated its effort to encompass foreign tourists in coordination with the Ministry of Tourism and private tour operators as part of the innovative tourism that is slowly taking root in the Kingdom, according to Abdullah Jazi, Director General of the corporation.

Historical links

A brief review of the history of the railway underlines the unbreakable links it has with the beginning of the end of the Ottoman empire which controlled a major part of the Arabian Peninsula at the turn of the century. There are conflicting versions of how the idea of a railway line linking Damascus with the Red Sea was conceived. While some historians attribute it to one Dr. Zimble, a German-American, full credit for implementing the project is given to Izzat Pasha Al Abed, a Syrian Arab, who was a close aide to the Ottoman Sultan Abdul Hamid, and to generous contributions from the Muslim World, which saw a great dream coming true with the realisation of the project.

It was in September 1900 that the sultan announced plans to build a 1,303-kilometre telegraph and railway line from Damascus to Medina in the Hijaz. History records that the original scheme envisaged extending the line to Mecca and possibly to a port in the Red Sea but work was stalled mainly due to political changes in Turkey.

The main purpose behind building the line appears to be two-fold. It was not only a great contribution to the pilgrimage flow to Medina and Mecca but also afforded the Ottoman rulers rapid movement of their armies to western Arabia without having to go through Egyptian waters. It took 40 to 50 days on camel back to reach Medina from Damascus, and 10 to 15 days from Syria to the Hijaz by sea.

With the introduction of the railway line, the travel time was cut down to less than three days.

The Ottomans received considerable contributions from the Muslim World towards constructing the line in response to a call by Sultan Abdul Hamid who highlighted the religious advantages of having such a project.

By completion in the year 1908, the project is said to have cost slightly less than four million Ottoman gold lira — about \$32 million those days. It is interesting to note that little considera-

tion was given to possible alternate routes for the railway line since logic dictated that the line should follow the old camel caravan path, which afforded water supply and camping sites along the trek.

A total of about 5,700 Turkish soldiers and officers, in addition to an unknown number of Bedouin, were involved in the construction of the project under a German engineer, Meissner, and 43 other engineers of various nationalities.

Formidable problems

According to historical records, the major problem encountered in the building of the line was scarcity of water. A German engineer wrote in 1906, six years into the project, that "the further the railroad extends into the desert in the direction of Medina, the greater the lack of water..." But that was not enough. There were added problems related to the supply of food and fuel, sand drifts, unruly labourers who wilted under the scorching desert sun and, more often than not, theft of wood sleepers, which were excellent firewood for the bedouin.

Against all these odds, work continued on the project and the line was completed as far as Medina by September 1908. The Ottoman rulers, however, did not expect the trouble that came with within their own ranks and which was to throw a spanner in the works of the planned extension to Mecca.

In April 1909, the "Young Turks" overthrew Sultan Abdul Hamid. The toppling of the ruler, coupled with the local, commercially inspired opposition of camel caravan operators who had found themselves deprived of the lucrative income from Turkish pilgrims using their services to reach Mecca, signalled an end to all further plans of expanding the line from Medina to Mecca.

Al Hussein Ibn Ali, Sherif of Mecca, is said to have backed strongly the idea of extension but political undercurrents in the Ottoman capital laid his dream low.

Strictly speaking, the railway operated only for the short period between 1908 and the beginning of World War I in 1914. Three trains ran weekly in either direction — the trip from Damascus to Medina took from two and a half to three days. Non-Muslims were banned from travelling beyond Maan without government permission.

When Turkey chose to side with Germany in World War I, it was also a turning point for the railway in that the Turkish move heralded destruction.

"Lawrence of Arabia," as the legendary British officer came to be known, used to lead small bands of desert warriors in attacks on the railway line, cutting off portions of it and rendering other parts unrepairable in a bid to harass the Turks and impede their troop movements. About 100 kilometres of the line were destroyed in these attacks.

In April 1917, efforts to repair the damages were given up and all operations along the line from Maan to Medina were abandoned. When the war ended, the

year amounted to about 10,000 tonnes.

Jazi points out that it is about 25 to 30 per cent cheaper for cargo movers to use the railway in moving goods from Syria to Jordan than for them to use lorries. He also notes that the time consumed at the Syrian-Jordanian border posts is cut down to about six to seven hours while it takes over 24 hours by road. The corporation operates an average of two to three freight trains every week.

At present, the corporation owns four steam engines of 1050 horsepower each — built in the early 1950s — and five diesel engines of 950 horsepower each — built in 1976. It has about 250 wagons, including 50 with a payload capacity of 15 tonnes each, 99 with 30-tonne capacity, and 81 with 10-tonne capacity, in addition to eight passenger coaches with 30 to 35 seat capacity each.

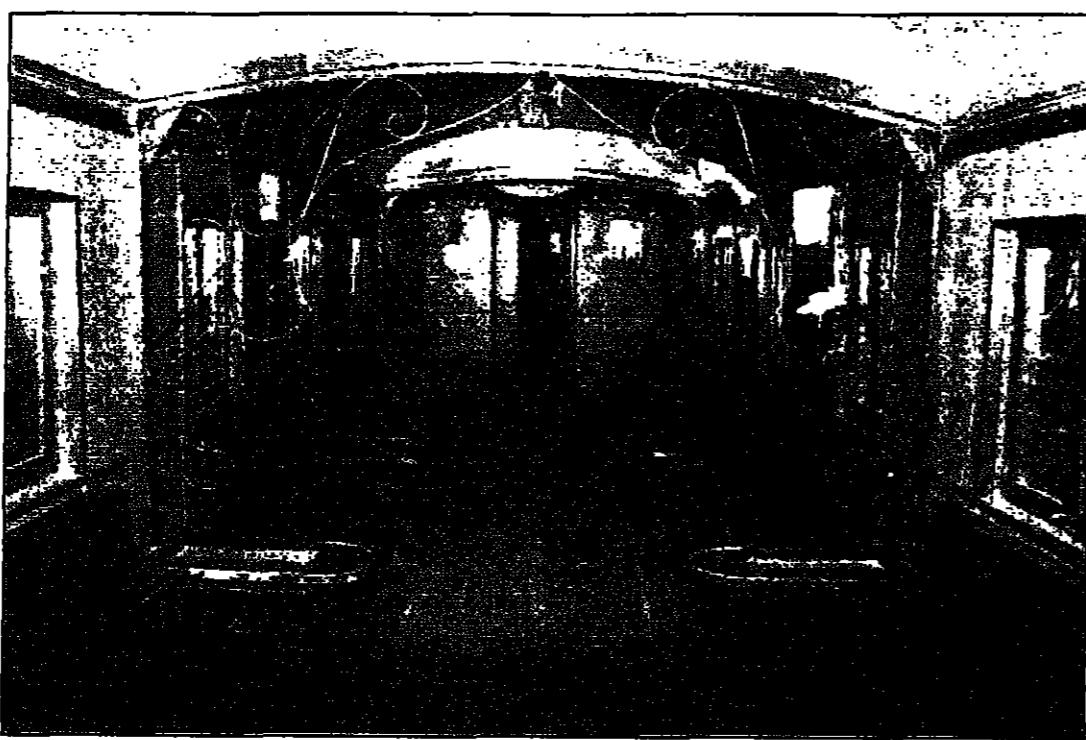
Jazi noted with pride that the corporation's inventory boasts of the royal coach which carried Prince Abdullah Ibn Al Hussein, the grandfather of His Majesty King Hussein, from Saudi Arabia to Maan in 1920. "That coach, as well as all our wagons and other coaches, are still in a fairly good condition," Jazi said. "If need be, refurbishing and refurnishing could be done to make the passenger coaches more attractive to tourists," he said, and recalled an occasion last year when a single passenger hired the corporation's services and paid about JD 500 for a short trip through the desert.

In fact, a closer look at the corporation's coaches reminds one of a historical museum, and it is a wonder that how they still remain in service. But then, one has to pay tribute to the engineering skills of those who built them.

According to Jazi, the Hijaz Railway Corporation, which employs about 200 people of various cadres, does not rely on any government support for its operations, managing to break even on its revenues and expenses. "We are not really seeking profits," Jazi added.

The corporation's main customers are tour operators and hotels which bring in tourists with the added attraction of a steam train ride through the desert thrown in as part of a tour package.

For more reasons than one, plans for rebuilding the railway and realising the goal of an operative network that could possibly be the Asian part of an intercontinental line appear to be destined to remain in paper for some time to come, largely because of the enormity of the costs involved. But it is a dream that refuses to die.



The inside of one of the original Hijazi rail cars

damaged part was rebuilt only up to Maan, which today remains the terminus of the line.

Rebuilding plans

The Muslim World revived the idea of rebuilding the line in 1935. King Ibn Saud of Saudi Arabia and the government of Syria took the lead and allocated funds for the project, but the French colonial power, unwittingly, undermined the plan by ousting the Syrian parliament.

In the mid-1950s, Saudi Arabia, Jordan and Syria again sought to revive the project. A contract for a feasibility study was awarded to an American company but for some unexplained reason the contract was cancelled.

Again, in 1965, a British firm was awarded a £15 million project — shared equally by the governments of Saudi Arabia, Jordan and Syria — to construct the line. A 115-kilometre stretch between Maan and the Saudi Arabian border was reconstructed in addition to another 15 kilometres

of the idea of an inter-Arab railway network is shortage of finance.

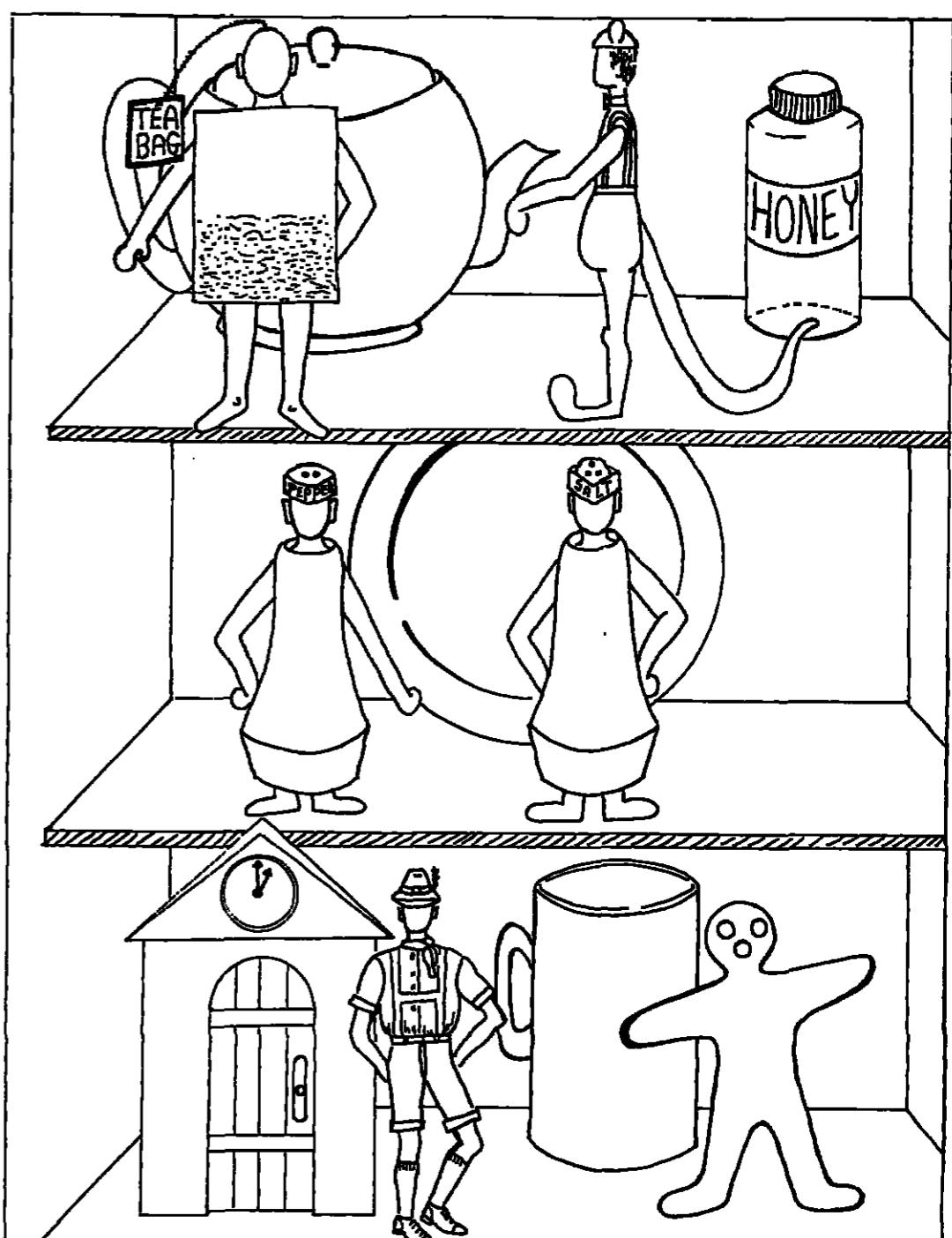
A meeting was held among representatives of Syria, Jordan and Saudi Arabia in 1983 and it was agreed that each country would shoulder the cost of "its portion of the line" but no concrete steps were taken to realise the project, whose cost was then estimated at about \$3.2 billion, according to some reports.

"The idea is still very much alive as far as Jordan concerned," said Hijaz Railway's Jazi, speaking in an interview with the Jordan Times this week at his office adjacent to the Marka railway station.

Limited activities

Today, the Hijaz Railway Corporation's activities are limited to taking tourists and Jordanian schoolchildren on outings and transporting cargo between Syria and Jordan.

According to Jazi, over 20,000 fun-seekers, schoolchildren as well as tourists, used the railway in 1987 while the total amount of cargo the corporation handled in



Hey its the Gingerbread Man

The Gingerbread Man is coming to Amman next month in a brand new production by the Royal Theatre Company which will be held in aid of the Al Hussein Society for the Rehabilitation of the Physically Handicapped.

Use your paints and colours in this Jordan Times sponsored competition to bring the Gingerbread Man to life and win yourself some free tickets for the opening night performance on December 17. The best entries will also receive a surprise

prize. All entries must be returned to the Jordan Times by Dec. 1, 1988. The judges will award prizes to the best entries in the 5 years and under group and to the 6 to 11 year old group. The winners will be announced in the Jordan Times issue of Dec. 10. All entries will be displayed in the foyer of the Royal Cultural Centre for the duration of the show which runs from Dec. 17 through to Dec. 22.

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OPEC continues to pressure Iraq, Iran to agree oil output

VIENNA (R) — OPEC mediators were working against the clock Saturday to heal a rift over oil output between Iran and Iraq, but prospects of a deal being struck before Monday's meeting of all 13 group nations looked bleak.

As negotiations moved into a third day, there were signs some producers might be ready to acknowledge a recent sharp fall in oil prices and propose cutting the organisation's target price by \$3 a barrel to \$15.

Three moderate producers, Indonesia, Nigeria and Venezuela, are searching for a formula to bring arch-rivals Iran and Iraq together, an essential first step if OPEC is to forge a new accord to cut output and reverse the worldwide price slide.

OPEC Secretary-General Subroto gave no hint of a breakthrough Saturday when asked about mediation efforts.

"We are working on it," he told reporters. "Everybody is interested in arriving at an agreement."

And Iran's Oil Minister Gho-

realistic.

"OPEC will study a proposal to slash its official price of \$18 per barrel by \$3 for the next six months," the Kuwait News Agency (KUNA) said in a report Saturday attributed to senior Gulf oil sources.

But oil market analysts believe even \$15 is not a realistic target and are widely predicting a crash to as low as \$5 if OPEC fails to mend its deep divisions.

The original plan was to forge an agreement between Iran and Iraq before Monday's meeting, but delegates said that was looking increasingly unlikely with neither side ready to back down.

"Both parties are absolutely inflexible and they are not going to give in," said a senior oil analyst monitoring the talks.

Going hand in hand with mediation efforts are implicit threats from OPEC's most powerful nation, Saudi Arabia, that it will flood the oil market if the group does not reunite.

Saudi Arabia is ready to see crude at \$5 a barrel... they are not trying to engineer it but are prepared for it to happen," the analyst said.

"The Saudis feel the market needs short-term pain for long-term gain," he added.

Saudi Arabia has already stepped up its production to about 6.35 million barrels per day, two million above its permitted OPEC quota, but reiterated its position that it would stick to any new deal if other OPEC nations did.

The official Saudi Press Agency (SPA), monitored in Bahrain, quoted a "responsible source" as saying Riyadh had not been the first to violate its quota.

Several formulas for bringing Iran and Iraq together have been floated. The most often cited involves oil produced in the "Neutral Zone," a strip of desert between Saudi Arabia and Kuwait.

Output of about 300,000 barrels per day from the zone was sold on behalf of Iraq by the two Gulf producers in support of its war effort against Iran, but since August's ceasefire OPEC has been deliberating on what to do with the crude.

One proposal is that Iraq be given what on the face of it would appear to be a lower OPEC quota than Iran, but that an allocation of, say, 100,000 barrels a day from the Neutral Zone would restore this to effective parity.

It remains unclear, however, if this compromise would be acceptable to either Tehran or Baghdad.

Saudi Arabia issued a statement Saturday reiterating its desire for an OPEC accord that would stabilise the oil market for 2-3 years.

The statement, carried by SPA, quoted an unidentified official as stressing that the kingdom would follow any agreement by the oil ministers of OPEC as long as the other 12 OPEC members followed suit.

"We repeat and affirm what the kingdom declared in more than one official statement that it is fully ready to abide by what will be decided in the Nov. 21 meeting on condition that all members of the organisation abide by it fully and decisively, and that work continues with what is agreed upon for two or three years to achieve the kind of stability required by producers and consumers alike," said the statement.

The official quoted said the statement was meant to close persistent attempts by the foreign media to make the kingdom the "scapegoat" for the deteriorating situation on the world oil market.

Saudi Arabia has reiterated over the past year that it rejects the swing producer role and should not be asked to sacrifice oil revenue while other OPEC nations are not taking any steps to buoy oil prices.

As swing producer, the world's largest oil exporter lowered its output when other OPEC partners exceeded theirs to maintain the level required to defend the benchmark price.

SPA's report noted Saudi Arabia has been forced to borrow this year to cover a projected 35.8 billion riyal (\$9.5 billion) budget deficit, and that the kingdom's output has progressively dropped from a high of 10 million barrels per day to the present 4.3 million barrels per day.

"I don't really worry about it very much," Brady said.

Some foreign exchange traders were surprised by Brady's remarks and said they may have helped weaken the currency rather than strengthen it.

"It was strange for Brady to say he was unconcerned about the dollar when central banks have tried for two days to prop it up," said one dealer.

"The comments were counter-productive," said a chief dealer at another U.S. bank.

Immediately after Friday's central bank dollar-buying, the currency jumped up to about 1.7455 Deutsche marks and 123.20 Japanese yen, but soon subsided to around 1.7375 marks and 122.75 yen in midmorning New York trading.

Recent indicators showing stronger-than-expected growth in the economy and the slide in the dollar since the presidential election have recently heightened concerns in financial markets that interest rates may soon be nudged higher to protect against the threat of higher inflation.

The discount rate, the rate at which the Federal Reserve lends money to commercial banks, is currently 6.5 per cent, while the prime rate, the rate at which banks lend to their preferred corporate clients, now stands at 10 per cent.

Asked whether Bush would rule out further excise taxes as well as higher income taxes, Brady recalled Bush's clear pledge "read my lips: no more taxes."

Bush said, "I presume that means exactly what he said."

The treasury secretary said the nation's economic growth was steady but rising, while unemployment was at an acceptable level.

Brady said he was confident that Bush's plan to reduce the deficit through a flexible freeze on spending would succeed.

"I'm confident that things will work out just fine," he said.

He also said Bush was working quickly to assemble his team of economic advisers, but said the markets needed to give him a bit more time to finish the job.

Separately, Bush's new chief-of-staff-designate, John Sununu, said the president-elect's quick selection of advisers should assure markets that he will provide strong leadership on cutting the budget deficit.

"I think the world can feel comfortable that George Bush

Arab bankers discuss challenge from Western financial giants

ABU DHABI (R) — More than 100 Arab bankers met in Abu Dhabi Saturday to discuss ways to counter the domination of Western banks.

"We are living in a world where banking blocs dominate the scene and where small banks cannot survive," Adnan Al Hindi, secretary-general of the Beirut-based Arab Banking Union, told Reuters.

He said the three-day conference would consider the possibility of mergers among the nearly 350 Arab banks.

"Bank mergers have proved to be successful in many Arab states... but what is more important are

bank mergers across Arab countries to face the world banking giants," he said.

Hindi said the Arab banking system was expected to come under more competition in 1992, when members of the European Community (EC) are due to integrate their financial and economic systems.

"We already have banking blocs in the United States and Japan," he said. "Soon we will have a new strong banking group in West Europe. I think this should motivate us to work for creating stronger bank entities."

But he said a stronger Arab banking system should not mean

confrontation with Western banks.

"On the contrary, cooperation should include Western banks. We should keep in touch with them, adopt from them and seek their help to develop our services," he said.

Hindi said the weakness of the Arab banking system and restrictions in some Arab states led governments and individuals to invest in Western countries.

Hindi said: "What is adding to

the problem of Arab Banks is the decline in Arab funds due to falling oil revenues."

Total Arab bank deposits fell to \$174.3 billion in 1987 from \$197.1 billion in 1986, according to Arab Banking Union figures.

Hindi said the weakness of the Arab banking system and restrictions in some Arab states led governments and individuals to invest in Western countries.

He estimated that Arab government and private investment abroad, mostly in the United States and West Europe, totalled \$327 billion. Individual investments were not known, he said.

Brady sees no rise in interest rates, is unworried by dollar

WASHINGTON (R) — Treasury Secretary Nicholas Brady said Friday he is not worried by the weakness of the dollar and U.S. stock prices since George Bush's election and he sees no sign that U.S. interest rates will rise.

"I don't see anything in the figures right now that would indicate that the interest rates are going to rise," Brady said on NBC's "Today" programme.

Brady also said concerns in the financial markets about the resolve of President-elect Bush to deal with the federal budget deficit were "overblown."

The U.S. currency, which has fallen sharply since the Nov. 8 election on concerns about the trade and budget deficits, has firmed in the last two days as the major central banks bought dollars in the open market Thursday and Friday.

"I don't really worry about it very much," Brady said.

Some foreign exchange traders were surprised by Brady's remarks and said they may have helped weaken the currency rather than strengthen it.

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Separately, Bush's new chief-of-staff-designate, John Sununu, said the president-elect's quick selection of advisers should assure markets that he will provide strong leadership on cutting the budget deficit.

"I think the world can feel comfortable that George Bush

said he believed Bush was ready to take the action needed to trim the huge U.S. federal deficit.

Wright said the two men did not discuss specifics.

Weekly Amman Financial Market trading

AMMAN (J.T.) — The following table summarises trading activities at the Amman Financial Market during the week starting Saturday, Nov. 12, '88 and ending Wednesday Nov. 16, '88. (Figures in Jordanian dinars).

Name of company	Number of shares	Volume of trade	Opening price	Closing price	Par value
Banking and financial institutions					
Industrial Development Bank	43950	72489	1.610	1.640	1.000
Petra Bank	14186	15040	2.370	2.390	1.000
Jordan Islamic Bank	3731	6995	1.900	1.900	1.000
Jordan Kuwait Bank	62481	100348	1.550	1.570	1.000
Jordan Gulf Bank	15200	19002	1.360	1.300	1.000
Housing Bank	29230	57010	1.940	1.960	1.000
Arab Jordan Investment Bank	4750	10975	2.270	2.320	1.000
Cairo Amman Bank	—	—	—	—	5.000
Bank of Jordan	3177	53804	16.270	16.600	5.000
Arab Bank	6160	887539	142.250	142.250	10.000
Jordan National Bank	61006	169762	2.770	2.760	1.000
Jordan Finance House for Development	146900	176542	1.220	1.230	1.000
Jordan Investment and Finance Corporation	63752	136698	2.390	2.410	1.000
National Financial Investments	154767	89861	0.580	0.580	1.000
National Portfolio Securities	71979	1687041	2.250	2.350	1.000
Arab Finance Corporation (Jordan)	181949	164027	0.880	0.890	1.000
Jordan Securities Corporation	2544	2112	0.780	0.870	1.000
Real Estate Financing Corporation	25	381	15.500	15.250	2.000
Al Mashreq Exchange	250	3375	13.500	13.500	10.000

Insurance and reinsurance

Jordan French Insurance	24733	130801	5.180	5.060	1.000
REFCO Life Insurance	—	—	—	—	1.000
Jordan Insurance	2400	2903	1.120	1.080	1.000
Arah Life and Accident Insurance	300	378	1.260	1.260	1.000
Yarmouk Insurance and Reinsurance	100	1426	1.400	1.440	1.000
Holy Land Insurance	335	335	1.010	1.000	1.000
Philadelphia Insurance	11495	113061	0.980	1.000	1.000
Arab Union International Insurance	—	—	—	—</	

Sports

Tyson under pressure to set fight

LONDON (R) — British boxing authorities are pressing the World Boxing Council (WBC) to set a Dec. 31 deadline for heavyweight champion Mike Tyson to agree a date for his often-postponed defence against Frank Bruno.

The British Boxing Board of Control (BBBC) has also asked the WBC to scotch rumours that Tyson might fight Brazil's Adilson Rodrigues in Rio de Janeiro before he meets the British title challenger.

"We have asked the WBC to give Tyson until Dec. 31 to agree a date for his defence against Bruno and to insist that the fight takes place before March 31," BBBC Secretary John Morris said Friday.

"We have told them we want confirmation of their convention decision of two weeks ago that Tyson must not only make a mandatory defence against Bruno but that he must not fight anybody else before Bruno," Morris added.

There are rumours of a fight with Rodrigues as part of the Rio festival early next year. That cannot be allowed."

The board sent a telex message to WBC president Jose Sulaiman pressing Bruno's claim, Morris said. The title fight, originally scheduled for last month in London, has been postponed four times because of a series of injuries to Tyson.

They included a hand injury sustained in a street brawl and concussion from a car accident.

A dispute between promoter Don King and Tyson's manager Bill Cayton, over a promotional agreement, the champion is reported to have signed with King.



Tyson shows off his injured hand

has held up the setting of a new date for the fight which Bruno's camp have now agreed will be in the United States.

"We are getting very, very concerned about the continuing delays," Morris said. Now it seems the fight may go back even further because of Tyson's managerial problems."

But Morris admitted that the British board had no muscle to back up its pleas to the WBC as it would not ask for Tyson to be stripped of his title if he failed to fight Bruno by March 31.

"Stripping Tyson would not help Frank. Fighting him is the best way for our man to make a fortune, so a vacant title and elimination contests to find a new champion wouldn't help," Morris said.

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN
AND OMAR SHARIF

WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ

Q.1—As South, vulnerable, you hold: ♠AQ952 ♦73 ♣A82 ♠K95
The bidding has proceeded: South West North East
? ♠ Pass 2 ♦ Pass

What do you bid now?

Q.2—As South, vulnerable, you hold: ♠AQ952 ♦73 ♣A82 ♠K95
The auction has proceeded: South West North East
? ♠ Pass 2 ♦ Pass

What do you bid now?

Q.3—As South vulnerable, you hold: ♠AQ952 ♦K95 ♣73 ♠K82
The bidding has proceeded: South West North East
? ♠ Pass 2 ♦ Pass

What do you bid now?

Q.4—Both vulnerable, as South you hold: ♠AK98542 ♦95 ♣AQ103 ♠
Look for answers on Monday.

4 barred after competing in S. Africa

CHICAGO (AP) — Three track and field athletes and a sports organiser, all from the United States, have been barred indefinitely from all competition because they participated in a series of track meets in South Africa.

The Athletics Congress (TAC), the governing body for U.S. Track and Field, imposed the suspensions Friday for both national and international competition on long jumper Tyrus Jefferson, distance runner Ray Wicksell, pole vaulter Tom Hiltner and organiser Dick Hollander.

TAC also agreed to hold hearings next month in California for 11 others who took part in the unsanctioned tour.

Jefferson placed third at this year's U.S. championships in the long jump. Wicksell is a U.S. citizen living in Willowdale, Ontario. Hiltner, who has U.S. and Brazilian citizenship, resides in California.

Hollander said the four can appeal the suspensions by submit-

ting a written request for an appeal.

TAC also disclosed that another participant in the South African events was Skip Robinson, a coach whose name was submitted to the organisation by the Association of Coaches of California Community Colleges.

"Because we just recently learned he went along on a tour, we didn't have time to officially bring him before the National Athletics Board of Review for a hearing," said Richard Hollander of Virginia, the board's chairman.

Hollander, along with TAC President Leroy Walker and Frank Greenburg, TAC's executive vice president, comprised the panel that voted on the suspensions and hearings Friday at a hotel near O'Hare International Airport.

Hollander said the four can appeal the suspensions by submit-

ting a written request for an appeal.

The athletes were suspended because they chose to compete in a country whose membership in the international amateur athletic federation has been suspended. The IAAF took the suspension action in 1975 because of South Africa's policy of apartheid.

"The evidence was obtained from press clippings and information we received that the 16 persons had been involved in a series of meets that also had been banned by the IAAF," Hollander said.

The TAC panel set Dec. 15 as the hearing date in the Los Angeles area for hurdler Milan Stewart, sprinters Cedric Gilder and James Andrews, hurdler Keith Thibodeaux and long jumper Kevin Atkins.

Hearings also will be held for:

David Laut, 1984 Olympic bronze medalist in the shot put; James Robinson, 1979 Pan Am games 800 metre champion; and Ruth Wysocki, a 1984 Olympian in the 800 and 1500 metres.

Others scheduled for a TAC hearing were: Tom Petranoff, a 1988 Olympian in the javelin; John Powell, 1976 and 1984 Olympic bronze medalist in the discus; and Carol Cady.

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Sri Lankans vote amid rebel attacks

TRINCOMALEE, Sri Lanka (R) — Tamil separatist guerrillas attacked troops and civilians in east Sri Lanka Saturday in an attempt to disrupt controversial local council elections, military sources said.

But many voters defied a boycott call by the Tamil rebels and Sinhalese extremists and went to the polls, said Lieutenant General A.S. Kalkat, commander of Indian troops on the island.

Most polling booths in the three eastern districts of Batticaloa, Trincomalee and Ampara opened about an hour later than scheduled because officials were reluctant to take their posts following threats from the rebels, officials said.

The Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) and Sinhalese radicals, the People's Liberation Front, had called a strike in the region and warned people not to vote.

The LTTE and the front both oppose last year's India-Sri Lanka accord under which the council was established.

Kalkat, who toured the region Saturday, said: "The LTTE had vowed not to let the democratic process go through. They had promised a blood bath."

He told reporters in Trincomalee the LTTE had ordered its gunmen to kill five civilians every night from every village between Nov. 12 and 19.

But, the general said, Indian troops had prevented such action.

Kalkat said the Tamil rebels launched seven attacks Friday morning, killing one civilian, injuring two others and wounding an Indian soldier.

Sri Lankan military sources said the guerrillas attacked five military camps and check-points of the Indian and Sri Lankan forces with mortars and small arms at Trincomalee Saturday. One Indian soldier died.

They said Tamil rebels also fired at three police stations in the Batticaloa and Ampara districts. The police fired back and the guerrillas withdrew. There were no casualties.

Resident of the eastern town of Akkaiapattu said the Tigers exploded bombs to scare away voters.

Residents said most shops were closed after the LTTE and the front called a three-day work stoppage from Friday to disrupt the poll.

The LTTE is continuing an armed campaign to set up an independent homeland in the north and east where most Tamils live.

The front, made up of Sinhalese youth, has criticised the India-Sri Lanka accord as a sell-out to India and the Tamils. It is conducting violent anti-

government demonstrations in southern areas calling for the resignation of the government, abrogation of the pact and the withdrawal of the 50,000 Indian troops on the island.

The day before, about 70,000 ethnic Albanians took to the streets in Kosovo's capital Pristina, roaming around chanting and shouting slogans from before dawn until almost midnight in defiance of appeals by communist leaders to go home.

The Pristina protests, mirrored in several other Kosovo towns, were sparked by the resignations of two popular ethnic Albanian leaders in the province, where the communist leadership has come under increasing pressure from Serbian communist leader Slobodan Milošević. Protesters contended the resignations were forced.

Milošević wants Yugoslavia's largest republic, Serbia, to have more control over its province of Kosovo, which was granted broad autonomy under the 1974 constitution. Once the heart of Serbia's medieval empire, the southern province bordering communist Albania is now dominated by ethnic Albanians.

The ambitious Serbian leader, whose drive has prompted non-Serb leaders in Yugoslavia's other five republics to unite against him, planned to speak at Saturday's rally in Belgrade, held to back his demands over Kosovo.

The Belgrade rally was the culmination of dozens of similar gatherings attracting hundreds of thousands of Serbs in recent months.

The organisers of the rally have claimed it will attract up to one million people, which would be the largest gathering ever massed in Belgrade, the federal and Serbian capital.

By mid-morning at least 200,000 people, many waving banners and slogans and some with portraits of Milošević, had massed at the rally site.

Crowds brought to the city on free buses and trains or marching from their city homes moved in well-organised columns toward the rally site on the banks of the Sava River.

Serb, Albanian protests flare

BELGRADE (AP) — Hundreds of thousands of chanting, flag-waving Serbs marched through the streets of Belgrade Saturday amid mounting ethnic tension over the future of the troubled southern province of Kosovo.

The day before, about 70,000 ethnic Albanians took to the streets in Kosovo's capital Pristina, roaming around chanting and shouting slogans from before dawn until almost midnight in defiance of appeals by communist leaders to go home.

The Pristina protests, mirrored in several other Kosovo towns, were sparked by the resignations of two popular ethnic Albanian leaders in the province, where the communist leadership has come under increasing pressure from Serbian communist leader Slobodan Milošević. Protesters contended the resignations were forced.

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Crowds brought to the city on free buses and trains or marching from their city homes moved in well-organised columns toward the rally site on the banks of the Sava River.

Their constant singing of Serbian nationalist songs and chants of "Slobob, Slobob, Slobodo" resounded throughout the city centre, closed off to traffic for the occasion and closely watched by a heavy presence of uniformed and plainclothes police.

"Slobob" is short for Milosevic's first name, while "Slobodo" means freedom in Serbian.

Belgrade television, run by a staunch supporter of Milosevic, ran hours of live coverage of crowds converging on the capital, of kindergartens and free food organised for participants and of the massive security operation required to police the march.

COLUMN 10

Reagan astrologer goes on tape

SAN FRANCISCO (R) — The astrologer whose advice to Nancy Reagan is said to have influenced President Reagan's schedule will soon be doing star-reading at a discount. San Francisco socialite Joan Quigley, who became Mrs. Reagan's personal astrologer in 1981 after the attempted assassination of the president, will sell computerised horoscope analyses on cassette tapes for \$45 a set starting Sunday. The price is something of a bargain since Quigley is said to have charged Mrs. Reagan and other prominent clients \$5,000 per horoscope chart.

Elvis lookalike abducts woman

TAMPA, Florida (AP) — A teen-ager says a man bearing a striking resemblance to Elvis Presley forced her at gunpoint to drive to the state of Alabama and sang along with the radio during the trip. "He might have looked like Elvis, but he sure didn't sing like him," University of South Florida freshman Wendy Durgan said after returning safely to her parents' Tampa home. Durgan, 18, said she was abducted in the parking lot of the restaurant where she worked as a waitress.

They also stunned black churchmen, some of whom said those convicted had merely provided leadership during a campaign against a government plan to usher in a new constitution in 1984 which continued to exclude the voiceless black majority.

The 11 defendants were found guilty mainly of organising mass protests against rent rises and local councillors who were regarded as corrupt collaborators with white domination.

Sentencing will not take place before Dec. 5 and the defence has leave to lodge an appeal before then.

Nicaragua, U.S. spar at OAS meeting

JOHANNESBURG (R) — Church leaders reacted with shock and concern to the Supreme Court's conviction of 11 black activists of treason and terrorism after South Africa's longest trial.

Judge K. van Dijkhorst Friday found three leaders of the largest anti-apartheid organisation, the United Democratic Front (UDF) and one other black activist guilty of treason.

The resolution was approved shortly after U.S. ambassador Richard T. McCormack stormed out of a committee session at the group's meeting in the capital of El Salvador.

The resolution calls for a study and possible amendments to current agreements between the OAS and the United States that would provide more diplomatic rights for all Latin American representatives to the group.

Nicaragua actively supported the resolution, possibly because the United States expelled its OAS ambassador, Carlos Tunnerman, in July.

Tunnerman, who also served as Nicaragua's envoy to the United States, was expelled along with seven Nicaraguan diplomats in retaliation for Nicaragua's expulsion of U.S. Ambassador Richard Melton and seven U.S. diplomats.

Nicaragua charged Melton with participating in a destabilisation plan against its leftist Sandinista government. Melton denied the allegation.

McCormack Friday said he had no objections to the resolution but stated that "the United States has the sovereign right" to accept or reject the admission OAS representatives sent to the United States.

Tunnerman responded by criticising "the abusive way" in which he was expelled from the United States by President Ronald Reagan's administration.

McCormack left the session shortly before the vote was taken.

Earlier Friday, an OAS committee approved a report prepared by the Inter-American Human Rights Commission that singled out Chile, Paraguay, El Salvador, Cuba, Nicaragua and Guatemala for human rights abuses.

The full OAS general assembly meets Saturday to approve all committee resolutions, hours after leftist Salvadorean guerrillas were to lift a cease-fire in their war against the U.S.-backed Salvadorean government.

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